

blackcardmembers x céli·pianta

BLACKTOBER

Zine 2020

**Hosted and curated by
TheActualCel**

**Blacktober Graphic by
AppleWifey**

WHAT IS

blackcardmembers x céli·pianta

BLACKTOBER

#Blacktober is an October month long exclusive event where Black creators get to turn their favorite characters into someone who looks like them! A prompt list is given for people to go off of, but anyone can make their own list. The event is meant to overall have fun with putting a new, representative twist on their faves be it from anime, western cartoons, video games, and more!

Additionally to this there is also OC-tober. A bank of a Black OCs submitted by Black creators will be made where ANYONE, black or non-black, can pick someone's original character and draw them while continuing to spread black joy and overall promoting black artists.

This event is partnerly organized by Céli/@pianta_, Cel/TheActualCel and the Black Card Member Community /@blackcardmems

#BLACKTOBER 2020

OFFICIAL PROMPT LIST

- 1. Childhood Fave**
- 2. Most Relatable**
- 3. Protagonist**
- 4. Antagonist**
- 5. Creepy**
- 6. Blonde Hair**
- 7. Bad-ass**
- 8. Magical Girl**
- 9. Running with
Toast**
- 10. Idol**

- 11. Sportsman/Athlete**
- 12. Cat/Neko Character**
- 13. Sword Wielder**
- 14. Airhead**
- 15. Hopeless Romantic**
- 16. Hero**
- 17. Enthusiastic (Genki)**
- 18. Warrior**
- 19. Tsundere**
- 20. Couple**

- 21. Student**
- 22. Self Insert/OC**
- 23. Parent/Parental
Figure**
- 24. Magic Powers**
- 25. Lazy Character**
- 26. Royalty**
- 27. Nerd/Geek**
- 28. Shy**
- 29. Video Game**
- 30. Android/Vocaloid**
- 31. Canon Black
Character**

THE PURPOSE OF THE #BLACKTOBER ZINE

For fun!

To recap the event! To celebrate Black History Month in Europe (which happens in October)! Overall to enjoy all the content we created together!

Below you will find pieces of various artists and their statements on what #Blacktober meant to them. The @ to their social media (Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, etc) is provided as well above their statements.

**Please note that all words are from each individual artists perspective.
No words have been altered or changed for this zine.**



@PIANTA_

"I dunno if I'll ever get over the fact that Blacktober exists because I had the silly idea of drawing my faves as Black for a month and it received so much love and support that we made it an actual thing and now we're here! Y'all made it happen! Honestly, Blacktober means everything to me. It helped me get back into the groove of things after a year of feeling uninspired, unmotivated and mentally drained because of current events, I finally managed to have fun creating again. I always envisioned the tag being filled with beautiful Black art by amazing Black creators, while giving visibility to Black creators who deserve it so much. Just a whole month where we get to showcase our creations and be amazing, in a space where we are so severely underrepresented. I hope it's managed to inspire people to continue creating and be proud, as it did for me."



@_TEB2_

"#Blacktober excited me when I first heard about it. I already love drawing existing characters as black so this event was perfect for me. I also think this event is important for a couple of reasons. 1. It brought all black artists together for a fun event, and seeing all of us have fun and interact was cool for me. I've even met some people through #Blacktober. 2. It's important for us because we don't get a lot of representation in media. So by shining spotlight by allowing us to re-imagine characters as black is also good because I feel like it's important for representation in media when it comes to black people because most of our favorite characters in media aren't black, and by creating a whole event allowing us to re-imagine them to look like is truly amazing."

SPECKS
Illustrations



@SPECKS_ART

**"Blacktober to me
meant FINALLY
seeing Black people
tell the visual story of
art through our own
eyes the way it
SHOULD be if it is we
were actually
represented fairly."**



@HITACHINSGIRL

"#Blacktober was the only series of prompts that has ever gotten me excited to participate. Seeing and drawing my favorite characters to look like ME has given me top tier levels of serotonin."



@MIHNT_0

"Through Blacktober, I've created more work in a month than I had all last year. I'd never felt so personally attached to a drawing event, but no other event has connected me with beautifully skilled artists that look and think like me. I will forever be grateful for the artistic growth this event influenced in me and for giving me so many other Black artists to adore. I absolutely cannot wait for next year!"



@SALTEDPINEAPPL2

**"I think this event was
just something I could
do for fun."**



@MANIMADE

"For me, Blacktober was seeing how many characters my fellow black artists loved now or growing up and seeing those characters share the same characteristics! There's a lack of nuanced black characters in media and seeing so many people see so many different characters as black really makes me hopeful that we'll get to see a wider range of black characters in media soon!"



@DINES_VISUAL

"Blacktober has carved out a space for black creatives to just have fun for once while loudly and proudly being ourselves unapologetically. We get to see ourselves in the media we love by our own hands as well as pay homage. This is a celebration of our people and our talents; Simple as that and I'm always here for it."

SUNFLOWER



@PENSURFING

"Blacktober has given self expression into shows that don't showcase characters of color. With the piece I choose, it was taking back a character's design that had heavy racist undertones & mistreatment and taking it back in the name of healthy black girl magic. (Sunflower from Fantasia.) Black representation matters in every way possible; the gentlest way, the prettiest way, the most joyful way. It has allowed unapologetic self inserts & chaos that I happily cosign as an event that challenged my design skills; given me a new love for characters I relate to; and shown me more of my own community that I didn't know was there. I hope this hashtag continues to echo for the next year to come and we paint the internet again in the many shades of brown."



@KUROHTAKI

"For me, Blacktober was a time for all black creators and come together for a very fun and interesting time. We could share our passion, our work, and our dreams. We got to relive our childhoods and reimagine them for the better. For me, Blacktober was my time to shine. I could present my work to a wider audience and share my passion with more people. I got to show off my own work and finally, for the first time ever, I felt...seen. I will treasure this event forever and next time I want to come out with even more amazing works to show. This was an event I could really sink my teeth into."



@KALEESETERNITY

"Personally for me, blacktober was an eye opener. I realized dark skin women were not drawn as much, so throughout the month I wanted to give them so much love. Not only for a month either, black women deserve so much love!!"



@ARTBYPG

"To me, Blacktober reaffirmed that black characters belong everywhere, in every genre, in every medium. We have a right to take up space and it's been amazing to see artists celebrate that."



@NOTSKYFIRE

"Blacktober has been a real treat despite the scorn it has received. Looking at all the characters (both OC's and interpreted canon) made me feel like we all can be great and we are these wonderful, multifaceted people who can do extraordinary things despite what cards has been dealt to us."



@SYMLIAD00

"It fills me with joy to see so many black artists coming together to draw their favorite characters with some melanin. I've found so many new artists to appreciate and I think the love that's grown from it is amazing."



@BUMBLEBERRYBEE_

"Blacktober has been unbelievably amazing! I've been blown away, seeing all these talented artists bringing their takes on childhood favourites to light. I've discovered so many talented artists that I never would have seen if it hadn't been for Blacktober. Seeing characters that look like me is so amazing, and I'd love for people to keep having fun with their designs! I know that I've had fun reimagining some of my favourite characters, and I've loved seeing interpretations I'd never thought of. I hope others have too! I'm excited to see the outcome of next year, and hope that I'll be able to participate more next year."



@THEUNIQUELEE

"#Blacktober was a spectacular event that brought me so much joy. Being able to see so many Black creators having so much fun and create so much Black joy was an absolute delight.

Participating in #Blacktober was the best part of my month. Creating and designing characters the way I want them to look and act and without being forced to change anything to fit anyone's ideal look - that was a monumental thing for me, and I will continue carrying that thought as I keep drawing."



@TALLQUIRKY

"Blacktober has been a joy to see the content made by black artists and i was delighted that so many artists simply made art for fun and for themselves. I loved the plethora of wonderful interpretations of characters throughout different mediums. You can feel the creativity in them. Alot of them should be an example to people that black characters can be interpereted well in alot of art styles. For me, art-wise, it has been hard to submit anything due to decreasing motivation to even draw. However seeing your art on my timeline made me try hard to keep going with my art. So in my opinion i think if you only did Blacktober for just one day, you still managed to make something and that piece has possibly made someone happy."



@FOOLBREW

"If there is any one sentence I can say about Blacktober that sums up the experience, it would be that Blacktober has been a month of fun with character design and a tiring battle against racism; I'm more used to the latter than I would like to be now, but that's one thing that can unfortunately happen when you're being abused. But Blacktober has been, ultimately, above all, a big fat dose of serotonin. And not a one will take that from me. Once you open your eyes to it, the sheer plethora of existing characters to make palimpsest and construct a new yet familiar thing on is astounding. It's free real estate. You can literally kick down doors and make space for yourself and refuse to move, especially if it's racists who try and push you. You can express your love for creativity, your favorite media, and you can put it out there into the world with all the force and confidence a proud artist should have. This month has made me proud to be an artist, proud to be creative, and proud to be Black. Blacktober has also proven to me that I can be loud about what hurts and people will back me. My voice has risen, and so have my wings. And I WILL be the drill that pierces the heavens."



@MT_BEAU

"Blacktober has been an amazing way of connecting with other black artists with similar interests and out-of-this-world talent. I've followed and supported so many new people, and got that love and support back."



@FRANKEN_SAMAART

"It was a heart-warming and cool experience to be a part of this with many other amazing artists. Even tho I didn't get to finish (It's my first type of event like this), at least I'm glad I managed to pump out more than 5 in a short period of time lol"



@ANIMEBARBIES

"Blacktober has been such fun and enjoyable time to draw and create things most relatable to me! Growing up I was a cartoonnetwork kinda kid, watching powerpuff girls, dexter's laboratory , samurai Jack, Edd, Ed and Eddy you know all the good stuff has really influenced my art style to have some cartoony aspect to it haha. I will always love these shows for they help create me, but blacktober has really taught me the lack of representation of people my skin color. Or the lack of being in shows that's not always about the hardships of being black. I want to see wacky adventures of superheroes, or someone being a super genius creating mechanics that's always getting destroyed. To have fun you know? To create something that shows all aspects of our life's, but to also have fun and create what we want without it being labeled as of what society wants it to be."



@HABIPRODUCTIONS

"I never really drew or developed my own ocs that much and this event gave me the opportunity to do that. Also, being able to see other artists and a variety of different type of character designs than the same three types of people who get the spotlight. Overall, it was fun to have an event centered around characters and fanart that look like me for once. Thank you."



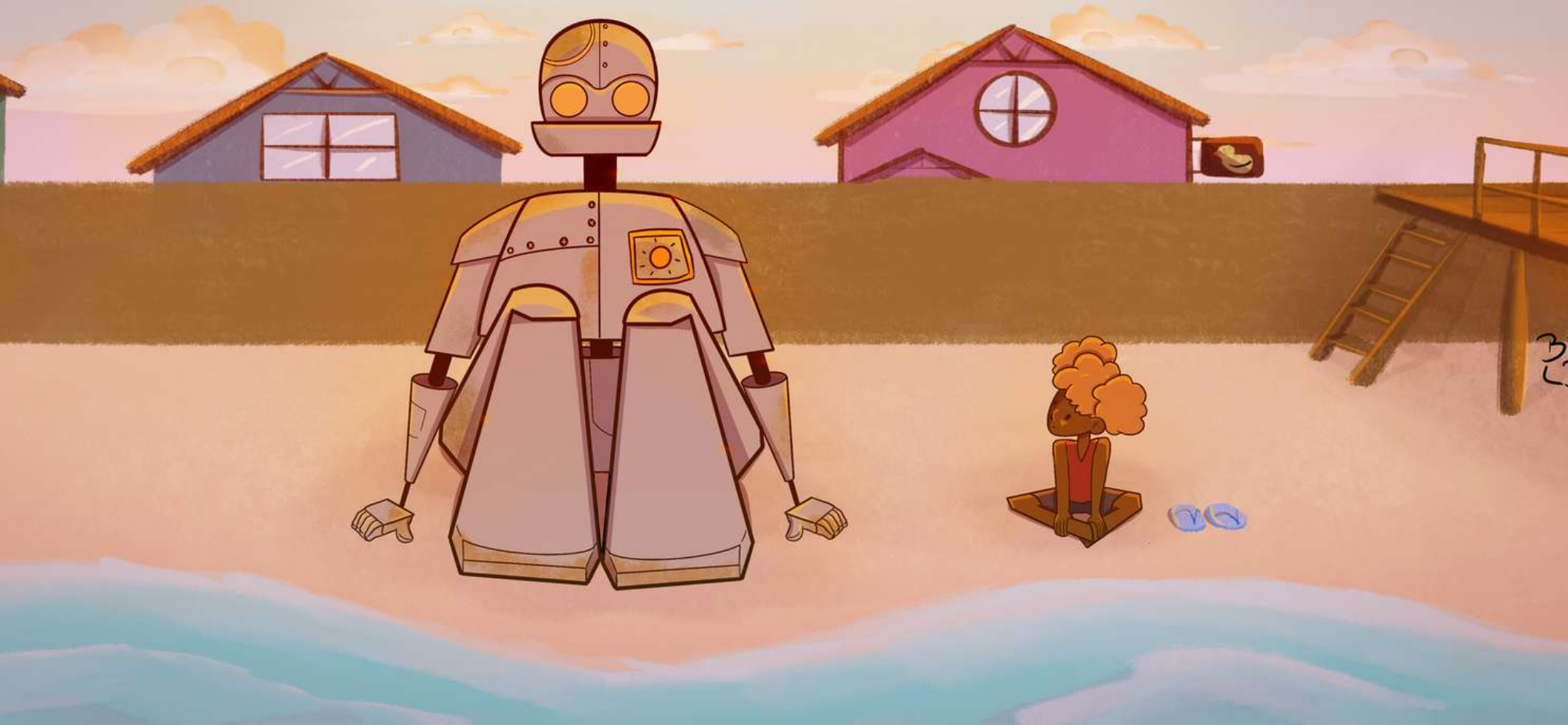
@TALLQUIRKY

"It been such an inspiration journey. Through this I've gotten such a lovely support network and have met lots of other black creatives. It showed me that I can do more with less time and I'm gonna keep this momentum going"



@TRASHYANII

"Blacktober was an opportunity to see myself overwhelmingly represented in media that I grew up with. It was a huge boost in love and validation."



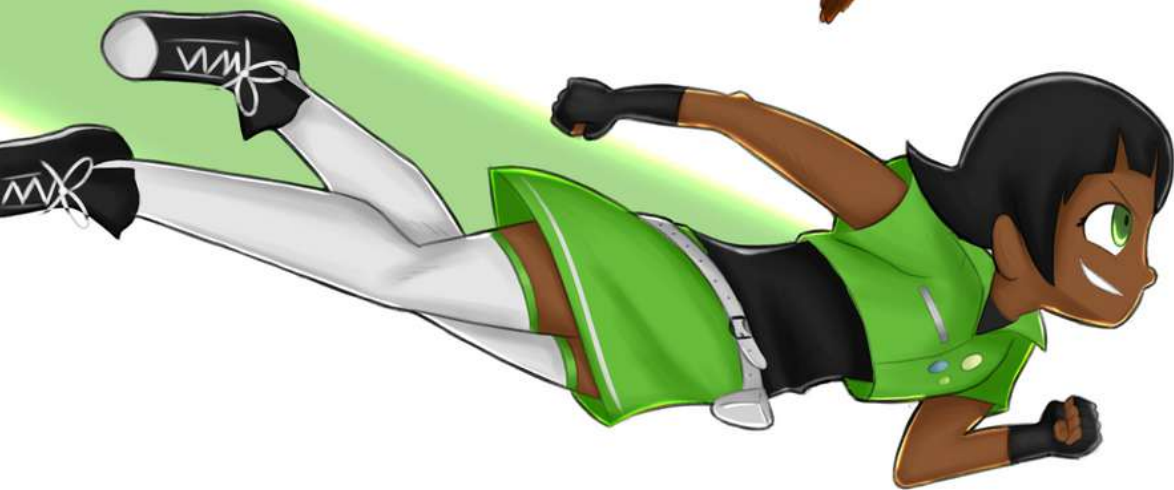
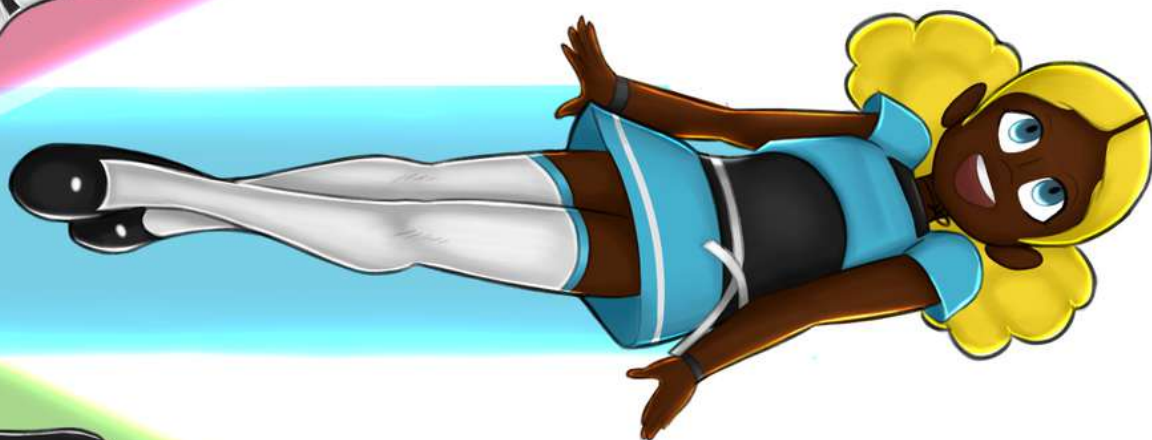
@BIBS_BABACA

"Blacktober was a really great way to get to know some amazing black creatives. I was able to ser great pieces that im sure wouldnt get to my feed in other way"



@MOBIISSIMO

"Blacktober has meant the absolute world to me this past month. It has brought me so much joy, even despite days that I've felt down. It was exciting to be drawing some of my favorite characters black, especially since it helped me venture out to draw hairstyles and features from my culture more often. And because of it, I don't plan on stopping any time soon! No other event has pumped me up as much as this one and it was because it was fun and I've met a wonderful community of artists just like me! Blacktober has gotten me to draw so much fan art in one month than I could have in past years. I'm thankful for the newfound confidence this event has given me being a black artist."



@AYOMAKESART

"Blacktober has been amazing because it's been a safe space for black artists to just be free, and celebrate each other, and enjoy each other's work. For me personally, it's been a great way to practice drawing black hair (I finally nailed down box braids this month!) and dark skin tones. I didn't get to draw as much as I wanted to but I plan on drawing for all 30 prompts, even beyond October."



@BLACKBBYBOI

"I didn't get to participate much but I'm so glad with the drawings that I did make for blacktober and. Being able to have a space for black creatives alike to share and talk about the things we love to do was really awe inspiring and special. I really want to thank all the people that created this event for putting the time and care into something as magnificent as this"



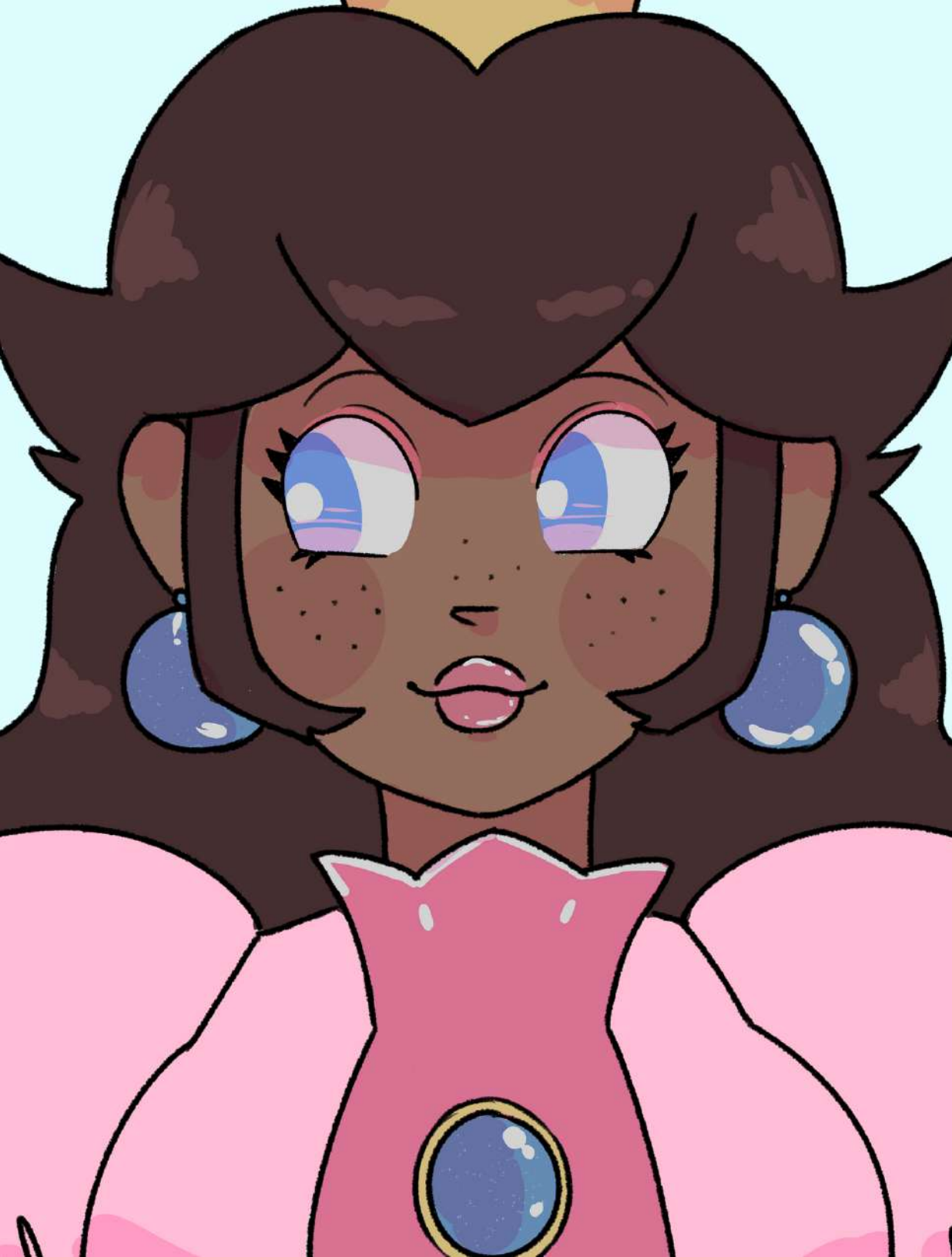
@BOXFULTHOUGHTS

"It was beautiful to see this community come together to lift each other up and create such lovely artwork reflective of our identities as black creatives, despite the countless instances of hate that were displayed. I wish I could've contributed more, but I truly loved seeing/sharing everyone's work!!"



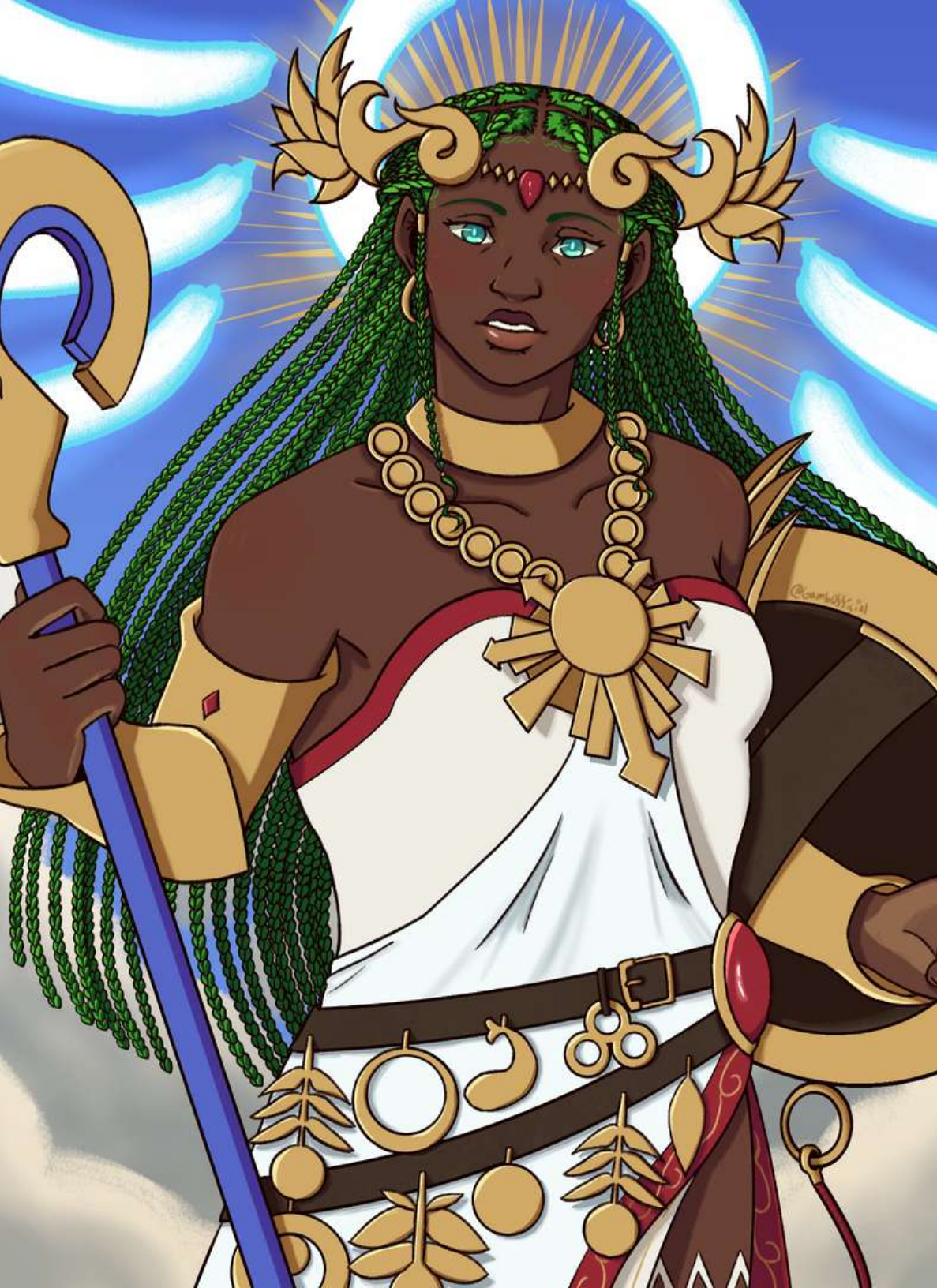
@_IZNJ

"#Blacktober has been quite inspirational to me, honestly. Sure it has been difficult, but seeing this many Black artists band together and spend the whole month drawing their favorite characters to look like themselves (especially during such a difficult year in general, and even more so for our community) has been quite refreshing. It has been great to see the different ways people interpret the same characters in new ways, and to see which obscure characters people care about So much they knew they had to include during this challenge. Also, the experience in the Black Card Members discord server has been more than exciting - knowing the prompts every day and waking up to see how many people posted such fantastic art has been a real treat. I remember the energy on day 1 was so high, and despite everything it has been sustained really well every day because we still are so excited for this! Even before this event began I remember immediately going through the list and coming up with ideas with no fear for a challenge like this, even though I normally shy away from drawing challenges like this. And I am very proud of both myself for doing all I've done and everyone else participating for all they've done whether they have done one drawing without the prompts, a full piece related to the prompt every day, or anywhere in between. This has been a fantastic month!"



@PEACHVALENTINE

"i've always loved to reimagine my favorite characters as black girls. it comes naturally and it was a genuine shock to see how much backlash it can cause. i've experienced my fair share of racism whenever i post art. but #blacktober has made me realize that the support can be overwhelming and definitely outweighs the negativity. i'm so grateful to find other artists who enjoy placing themselves in their artwork!"



@GAMBOFFICIAL

"The main thing that Blacktober has shown me is that black artists are here, and we're here to stay. I think it's really wonderful that we've managed to make our own space to enjoy media, make content for it, and see ourselves in it. I didn't have very much time to work on art this month, but I really wanted to get a drawing of Palutena out there, because she's from one of my absolute favorite games, and I hadn't seen anyone try to draw her.

I was honestly surprised by the positive reception to my work! Now, to bring it back to the question at hand, part of what made this work special is just how happy it seems to have made people. My favorite response to it was actually a Quote Retweet, where they said "just confirmed I'd look good with green box braids." While it's a cute and rather innocuous comment, it was really, really special to me, because

it made me realize - my work can help other people feel seen, too."



@NEONCYAN_CF3

"Honestly, once it became an official thing I sent my friend a gif that was captioned "My time has come...". I spent 4 years in an institution where no one really cared to teach me how to draw myself. I had to learn on my own how to draw hair, color theory as it applies to brown skin, and more.

Redesigning and re-imagining characters became my springboard into character design, and my way into challenging myself into being creative with my culture.

#Blacktober was the first time I really participated in such a big thing and connected with other Black artists who were in the same boat as me. I kept catching myself thinking about how if I were younger and looking at my work now, I never would've been able to fathom how much I've improved.

Even less that I'd be making all my faves Black and Queer while doing the most. It meant a lot that I was able to participate in something as big as this and feel so many things as I worked and actually re-fueled my passion for doing what I do."



@KOIDOODLES

"Blacktober is EASILY the coolest events I have ever been a part of. The amount of inspiration I felt is higher than it's been in ages and I feel like the Black artist community across platforms really strengthened too. There's no words really for the sort of bond over the love for all the creations- ocs and fanworks alike! It's really hard to even try to capture the feeling honestly. I made SO many friends, met so many incredible artists, gained a lot of support, and I think the most vital thing was got to create something very special, a place that people could see themselves in, in a way they never had before! Many artists including myself have been doing Black redesigns and imagines for ages, many of us since we were just starting out art, so something about it felt so much like coming full circle? I think my younger artist self would be proud. To the creators, the participants, and all the supporters, all I can say is thank you."



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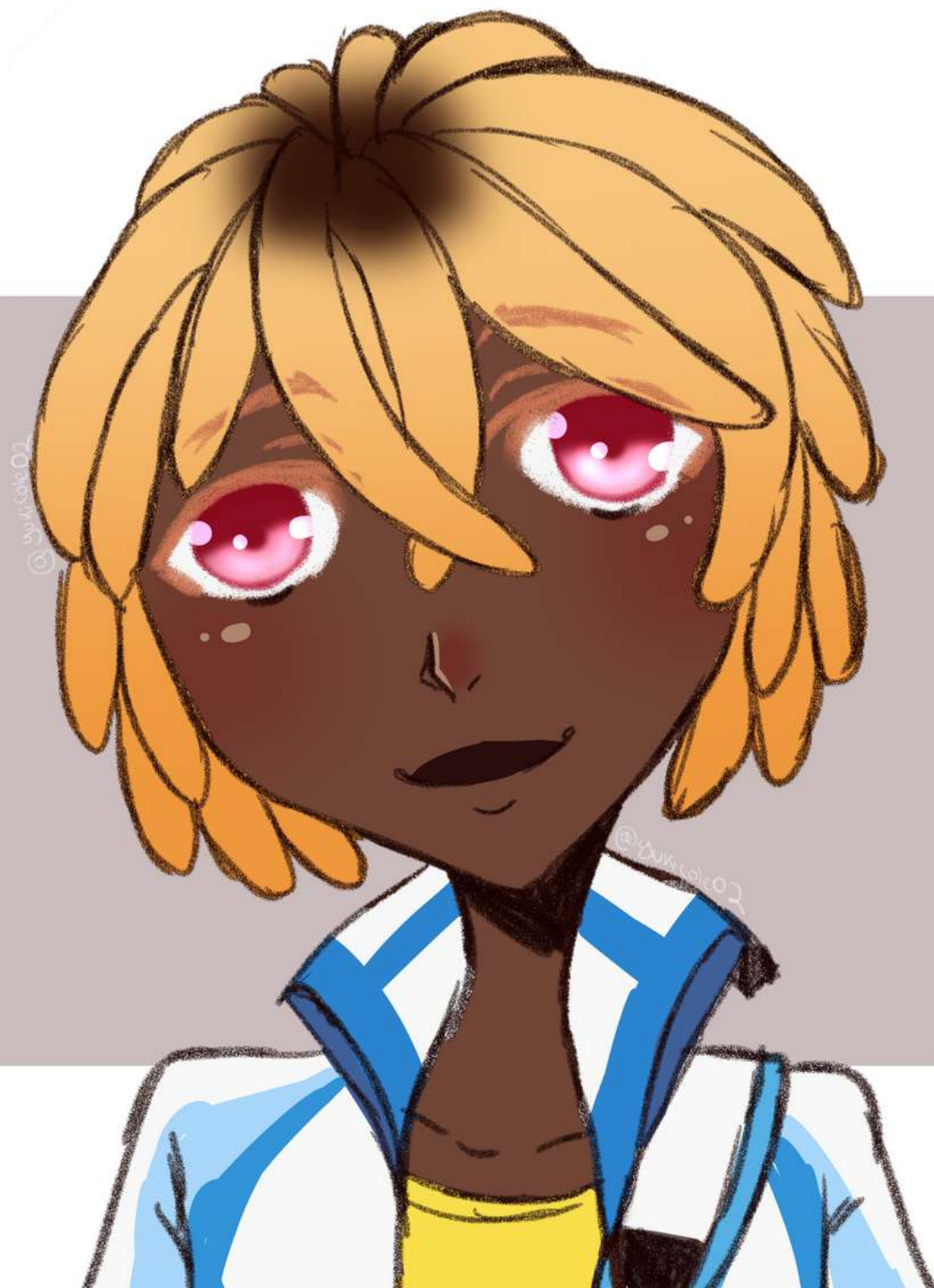
@OPERATIONUGAWTS

"I really enjoyed having some prompts to draw many of my original characters and seeing other characters and potential stories I would love to follow. The recreations of popular characters was also a treat!"



@GALAXYWING_

"Blacktober served as a love letter to my younger self, who grew up looking up to many different characters from different games, shows, and anime. I have always wanted to see myself in these characters growing up, and Blacktober has reminded me that I could use my gift to make that wish a reality, and to tell my childhood self that my representation matters."



@YUKICOLE02

"#Blacktober means a lot to me. Being able to see my favorite characters old and new as people just like me. Which allowed me to love these characters even more. Not only that but this event has allowed me to discover so many new and amazing artist who are like me. Despite only being able to do one piece I enjoyed being able to reimagine one of my favorite characters from a show I hadn't watched in years into someone like me. It truly is an amazing event."



@BOYSKYLARK

"I got to stretch my creative muscles while also envisioning myself in the media that formed my interests."



@PLATONICCRUSH

"this is the first time i felt that i belonged to a community, seeing people drawing my favorite characters/comfort characters looking like me made me sooo happy (same thing for people being happy seeing my art). and the feedback i got on my art made me really happy I think I never had a good feedback on my art like that, it makes me even happier that i'm doing something I like. And i even started feeling like my art got better. This whole event was so good and one of the best things i've participated"



@REM_IMAGINATION

"While I myself was not able to participate every day, it was spectacular to see so many clever redesigns and interpretations coming from so many different artists across the board! The kind of world we could have where we see respectful and fun representation, not just for popular media characters but seeing peoples OCs or the ones they just made in the wake of this event! Love to see it!"



@BYEEWALDON

"It was so comforting to have an event for Black artists by Black artists because Black people have been through so much this year. We deserve to feel seen in the art we enjoy and have every right to create content that makes us feel represented."

@byeewaldon



@_RAE994

"Although I wasn't able to get through a lot of the prompts because of school but Blacktober was one of the events that made me smile to see more representation. I really don't have a lot to say since it's hard to explain but I am glad that the creators for this event made this especially with what's going on with the world. It was a complete refresher so Thank you."



@YE_BREAD

"Seeing a community like this gather to show our love for our characters AND our skin tones feels great. Especially as a Salvadoran artist, there's very little in representation for central america in mainstream media, and with movements like this, I hope we can get better representation for everyone. ^-^"



@PASTELPERYTON

"Blacktober has been an event where I can help create rep for those who are lacking it, along with helping those that relate to these characters feel seen. I've met so many new artists that have similar interests to me and that sense of community means a lot to me."



@IMOTEP92

"This event has been so instrumental to me not only as a Black Artist, but as Black Person. Through this event, being exposed to the sheer variety of how Black People can be portrayed in media, I felt proud to be a part of that demographic and I finally learned to love drawing people who look just like and me. Thank you to all the artists that took part and thank you so much Blacktober!!!"



@TERRICHENYIART

**"finding other black
creatives."**



@KATTS_ART

**"It gave black
teenage girls like
me a chance to see
our favorite
characters
represented finally!
After so many
years!"**



@CURLYQUEUED

"Blacktober means a lot to me. It's been such a great opportunity to connect with and mutually support Black artists and see tons of beautiful artwork. The event also got me back into my favorite childhood video game, Kingdom Hearts. (The drawing I have submitted is of one of the main characters, Kairi). Exploring the characters through this event has been such an eye opening and healing experience. And I'm happy to see that so many people like and resonate with what I've made, which was unexpected-aside from the occasional nasty comment the response has been overwhelmingly positive. (I know that's not the case for everyone, and I consider myself deeply lucky to have had this experience. Sorry to all who have had to deal with so much hate this month.)

Overall, Blacktober has been a positive experience and the support has also motivated me to draw in a way I haven't felt in a long time (even before the pandemic it was difficult!). I hope that this motivation continues for a long time after Blacktober is over.

Thank you to Cel and Céli for organizing this event, and for everyone who has participated and made this event truly special."



@MELONSTELLAR

"It has been the best thing for me this year, creative-wise. I'd been struggling really bad this year with uni and my mental health so I was in an art slump for a long time. Participating in Blacktober among many amazing artists brought out so much creativity in me! It has been an uplifting month of excellence for myself and many others, I've created some of my best works to date this month because of it. Not to mention I've met so many amazing people through this!"



@ARTBYJACQUIEE

"This event has meant a lot to me its been super inspiring seeing characters that i gre up watching looking like me and just being in the presence of so many talented black creatives has been so damn awesome. Participating and getting to be creative in this way has been wonderful"



@BEARBYDAY

**"a fun challenge to think
outside the box or re-
imagine childhood favorites"**



@XHARUNNN

"It's helped me find other black artists! And celebrate seeing art of people who look like me & take my favorite characters from shows/series and come up with a new slightly design to better capture how that character would look black. It's been an incredible experience."



@THENIHILRIVER

"Blacktober has given me an opportunity to have fun and express myself with a supportive and talented group of black artists! It was my first year participating and I couldn't be happier!!"



@AMASCOMET

**"I WANNA ACTUALLY
TYPE UP MU FEELINGS
BUT I CANT DECIPHER
MYSELF BUT SO BAD in
a quick sentence I love
blacktober and honestly
im gonna continue
injecting melanin into
my faves cause I had
done it before this and I
LIED IDK HWO TO
DECIPHER MYSELF
THAT FADT I JUST
WANT MORE REP PLS"**



@COMMISSIONMARIE

"This event has been amazing, I never felt so proud to be black like this before. It was great seeing all the black artist."



@ATOMIC_PANDA101

"Blacktober has been a fun way for me to explore new ways to draw characters. It's so amazing to see how people redesign these characters or to see all these beautiful OCs. It makes me want to work more and draw my OCs more!"



mzch3y

@MZCH3Y

"Being able to see so many black faces on my timeline has been wonderful. I loved seeing the ways everyone interpreted so many characters from my childhood with black features.

Especially all of the tightly coiled textured hair (yay 4C!).

All of the terrible racist 'backlash' aside, I'd love to see more and more black interpretations of cartoon, anime, live action characters and whatever else! Loads of people having so little representation growing up and being driven to create black art and characters they wanted to see is a great thing and I hope it will continue all year round and not just for October"



@CATHARTICUS

"This has been the most inspired to draw I've felt in years. I love seeing all the amazing works of art that reimagine our favorite characters and create entirely new ones!"



@COLDCHERRYLIME

"Blacktober was a very inspirational event. It felt exciting to see myself represented along with many other people. It was a great way to creatively put us into the narrative we need. This years been hectic, so its nice to see some light at the end of the tunnel."



@ALAYSIA_L

"#Blacktober has been a beacon in this crappy year. I've met so many awesome bipoc artists through this! No matter what the media says or what people think, we are so creative and talented. #Blacktober feels like community instead of just a hastag :)"



@MOOSHGI

#Blacktober has been one of the best events that I've participated in, personally. Because I was able to see and read my favorite characters reflect my appearance.

Growing up, I did not see many characters of color in popular media and literature. So seeing characters with similar skintones and hair textures brought joy to my inner unrepresented child. I remember wishing I looked like the non-POC characters because they were perceived as more beautiful and popular than the POC characters. White is not the only color in this world. There are many colors of POC that need positive representation. It is very sad that this society sees colors other than white as such a controversial topic.)

Yes, we have our OCs to create representation but those rarely get attention. #Blacktober brought so much attention and unity to the realization that this is a subject that needs to have a solution.

There were times where the controversy got to me, it caused me to not complete the entire month, but I still did my best to share and encourage other creators participating. Because it is important to have POC representation in media, especially for children. Not just being the minor side characters or the extremely negatively caricatured villains, but as MAIN characters with their own journeys that aren't fully reliant on non-POC characters. I'm so thankful that the creators of #blacktober saw this need and bravely went forward with it.

Thank you so much.



@NATCATSAMA

**"After watching every
black creative be
ignored and hurt in june,
i felt nice being seen
and uplifted by each
other despite the issues
that came up."**



@ETHJAYY

"Blacktober was a very special event to me and one of the first art events I have joined since I started sharing my art online. Before this event, I wasn't really confident in my art and always felt like it wasn't good enough, but this event has helped me learn that it's ok to explore and experiment with different styles. It has also helped me improve immensely. Another reason why I loved this event so much is because of all the beautiful artwork I've seen from fellow black artists and discovering new artists I've never seen before! It brought me so much joy to see characters that I love look more like me in amazing styles and colors so much that I got overwhelmed and just so happy. It was so motivating to see everyone enjoy themselves and have fun with this event and I hope that we can do this again! I also want to say to everyone that participated, whether it was only for one or a few days, that I'm so proud of all of you and I want y'all to keep going!"



@PETALROMANCE

"blacktober has meant to me being able to see myself in all my favorite characters and shows but also being able to give other people the chance to do the same. For all the hardships that came this months, i'm glad i was able to make people smile and feel represented."



@AKIGOTH

"although i was not able to post all the sketches and works I've created for this event (due to being busy with school) I was very happy to see the works of so many black creatives. I was even more pleased with the amount of support that was shown to those creators. As a young artist it really inspired me to push forward with my work in the field despite the many pushbacks because of my race."



@_CHOCOCHIKA

"Even with all the hardships that came in response to it, it's easily one of the most fun art events that I've been a part of. Someone else said it best that it was like Christmas, but genuinely it was on that level of happiness and excitement seeing my faves drawn in a way that looked like me and also drawing my faves in a way that reflected both me and my culture. I loved being a part of it and I can't wait for next year's event and hope it's even bigger than this year's!"



@COSMICAMAZN

"I truly had the most wonderful time, everyday seeing all the gorgeous pieces people submitted really made me so happy and reimagining some of my favorite characters was tons of fun! It was fascinating to see each artist's different takes on blackness and how to represent people like ourselves.

I thought a lot about how I would've, definitely, had a better relationship with my own image if I had seen more Black joy in media when I was younger and I'm very thankful that nowadays so many Black creatives are fighting for spaces in content creation.

Overall, it was a very wholesome event and I loved being a part of it very much!"



@ARTISTDDLOCKS

"This was a chance for me to find all the fantastic black artists and cosplayers I never knew about on twitter. I was really happy to make fun art for myself and have fun with other black artists."



@DEMENDEH

"Participating in this event greatly increased my self-confidence as an artist. It has brought me so much joy from day one and has refueled my passion for making art. I can't wait for Blacktober 2021"



@WEZZA_ARTS

"I've loved looking at other people's designs and interpretations of characters that are typically white/ pale. It feels empowering to see other black people representing themselves despite the backlash from racist clowns and I hope people continue to have fun drawing black characters beyond this month. I certainly will because creating my own pieces and looking at stuff other people came out with has given me a lot of inspiration for future art projects."



@KAYDENTKAYDE

"It has been absolutely wonderful. I was able to enjoy seeing so many representations of my kind as interpreted by my own kind!! Actual black hairstyles and just general good vibes. Don't ever want it to end, and will 100% be Black next year!"



@DOOPADEER

"The theme was 'favorite childhood character' and for me that's Hermione Granger. She has always been, and still is, my idol. She's smart, she's brave, and she never let what people thought of her be what made her. She knew her value, and knew that she was important, and she never let it stop her! This girl went from being the least liked girl in school to being Minister for Magic 2020, and I just... I think she's amazing, and I strive to uphold her values of being fair, just, and hungry for knowledge."



@GLEAMFOUNTAIN

"It's one of the few events where I honestly felt welcome and represented especially seeing other's takes on characters I had grown up with. I couldn't participate much this year but the one thing I have made makes me proud."



@MORMADILLUS

"This was an invigorating, heartwarming, and just an incredibly emotional experience. Through the whole experience I would talk about how seeing characters like the ones in blacktober would've cured younger me's depression. While I said it while laughing..... it wasn't really a joke. Something like this would've saved young me more heartache than she knew. Blacktober was a healing space for hurt I've had so long I forgot how deep it ran."



@DEBBSSTEPPS

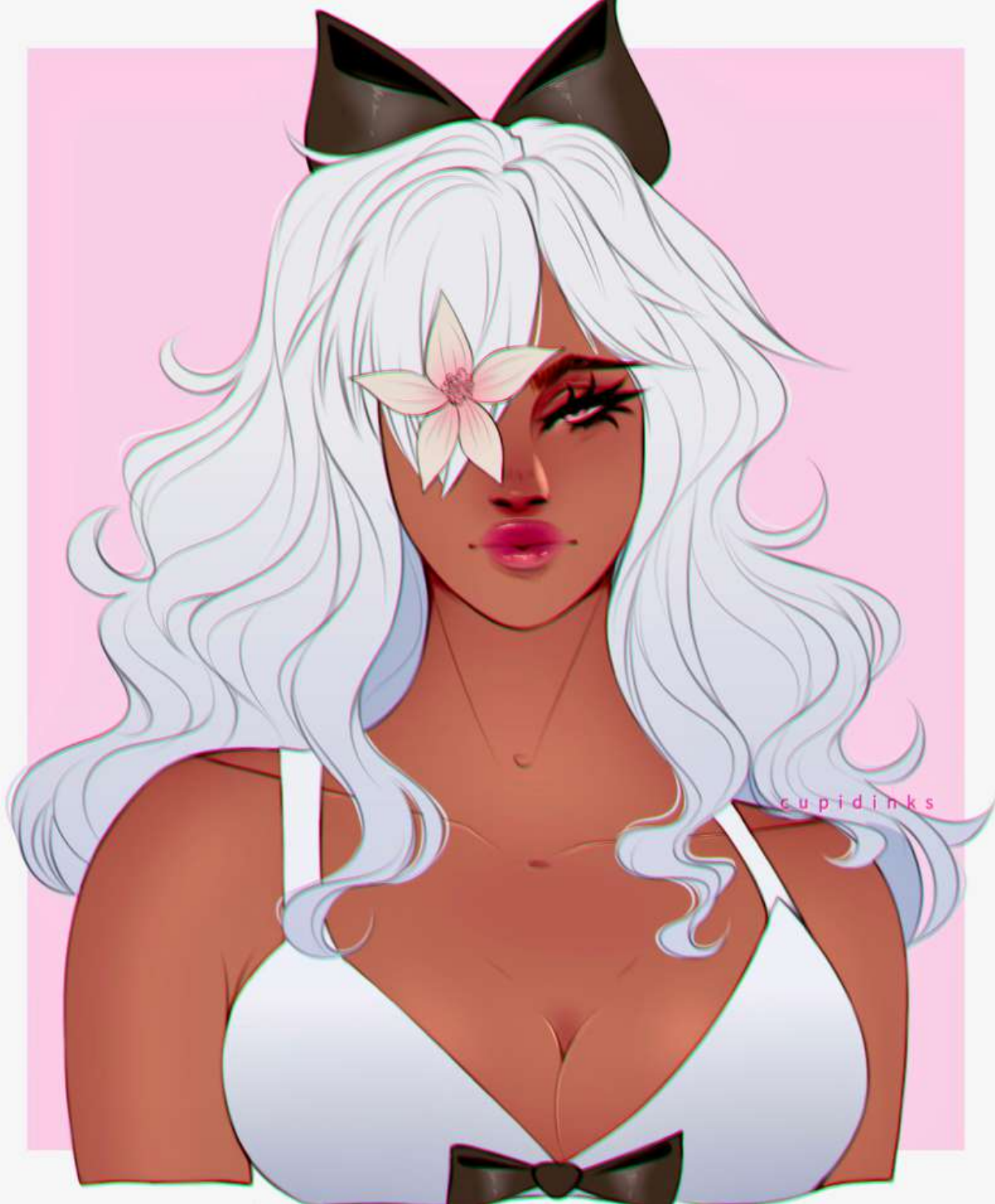
"I really enjoyed deciding what hair style and skin tone goes good for which character. My thought process behind nose sizes and lip shape was an experience. Unpacking my own biases in terms of colorism and texturism was also something I realized. But most of all, seeing my favorite anime and cartoon characters turned black, becoming someone I can relate with inside and out was soooooo amazing and emotional. I didn't think I needed that much representation until this event! #Blacktober showed me how important it is for me to de-colonize my mindset and think, actually think "Black". White, whiteness, for me, should and will no longer be the blueprint for my stories, characters, and ideas. it'll start Black, and end Black from now on!"





@INKPLASH

"Blacktober is the first event where I've had this much fun! It's been so amazing getting to connect with so many black artists and seeing so much beautiful art. I honestly can't wait for next year's Blacktober!!"



@CUPIDINKS

"Blacktober was one of the very first artist events I've really participated in. And it was so much fun. As a black artist, it's hard to find a place you fit in, even in the art community where we are often ridiculed and spoken over. The blacktober tag felt like I truly belonged in a community; and it helped me find other black artists who are crazy talented - which I enjoyed the most!"



@KERMITCURRY

"Blacktober was an amazing experience for me. I wasn't able to fully complete it but that was because I had gotten a surge of commissions after being discovered by other black creatives in the tag! Seeing other black creatives spend time creating or recreating characters that they love is awesome and the overwhelming positivity from the community is beautiful."



@KRYSTAIHUNTRESS

"Blacktober has been especially fun for me. Since the project was announced I couldn't wait to participate. The process of making my list and taking so many characters that mean so much to me and reimagining them as black; I've really enjoyed all of it. I also definitely believe improved much as an artist in general. I have gotten some traction on certain art, which was fun, and receiving nice comments from people means so much to me. It's nice to know there are people who thoroughly enjoy going through the tags and retweeting every piece of part because it feels very nice to know that there are people who are willing to support black artists. This month has definitely not been easy, especially for those who faced racism and harassment over their art among other things, but I still love what Blacktober means as its core, which is black artists creating a space for themselves and making the representation that they deserve"



@IDOLOMANTISES

"Before Blacktober was a thing, I used to do black renditions of pre-existing characters like Zelda from BOTW or All might from BNHA. Now when I see this trend blossom and thrive and seeing fellow black artists enjoy expressing themselves and draw characters with various ethnicities and designs, it really makes me happy. I love this trend and I hope it grows in popularity over time."



@JUPITER_ROSE10

"The black community is getting more recognition for their talent in a world where we're usually invisible and unheard. This is our time."



@BLOODY SSEY

"To me, Blacktober is akin to a celebration. It fosters black joy in a time where many things are bleak, but seeing the excitement everyone had before and during blacktober warms my heart. To see everyone happy about seeing themselves on the screen, represented by different people in different media that they either created or enjoyed, was overwhelming in a very good way. I don't think I've ever been a part of an event full of so much love and I'm so glad I got to be a part of it."



Jo Jo's Bizarre Adventure

@LONEPUDDINGCUP

**"It's proven that some
characters just look
objectively better
~Melaninated~."**

GOLDENWIND



@_DYOHNA

"This event meant that I could go in and draw the traits that for so long I'd been convinced were not "aesthetic" enough. As someone way into the kawaii culture, I was able to tear down my own biases and feel more confident drawing my beautiful black traits. Seeing my favorite characters look like me and my family hit harder than I thought it would. Finding many new artists to follow was also a big positive!"



@PRINCESSKADANCE

"At first I didn't take as much interest in the Blacktober event, but then I saw the other black artists' work and it inspired me to join in too, but I didn't know where to start! It so far has inspired me to go outside of my comfort zone and try my hand at new things."



@MIASHARUMIC

"Even though I didn't do a lot for Blacktober, I really think it was something really great for us all to be able to do. Blacktober appealed to me because I'm a black artist that likes drawing black people, and to have an event where the whole point is just black people drawing black people, and being seen doing that, was really exciting, and it was just fun to see what people did."



@SPIRY__

"Seeing all the black artists out there and seeing my favorite characters looking similar to me all at the same time- all during my favorite month of the year?? What a blast!"



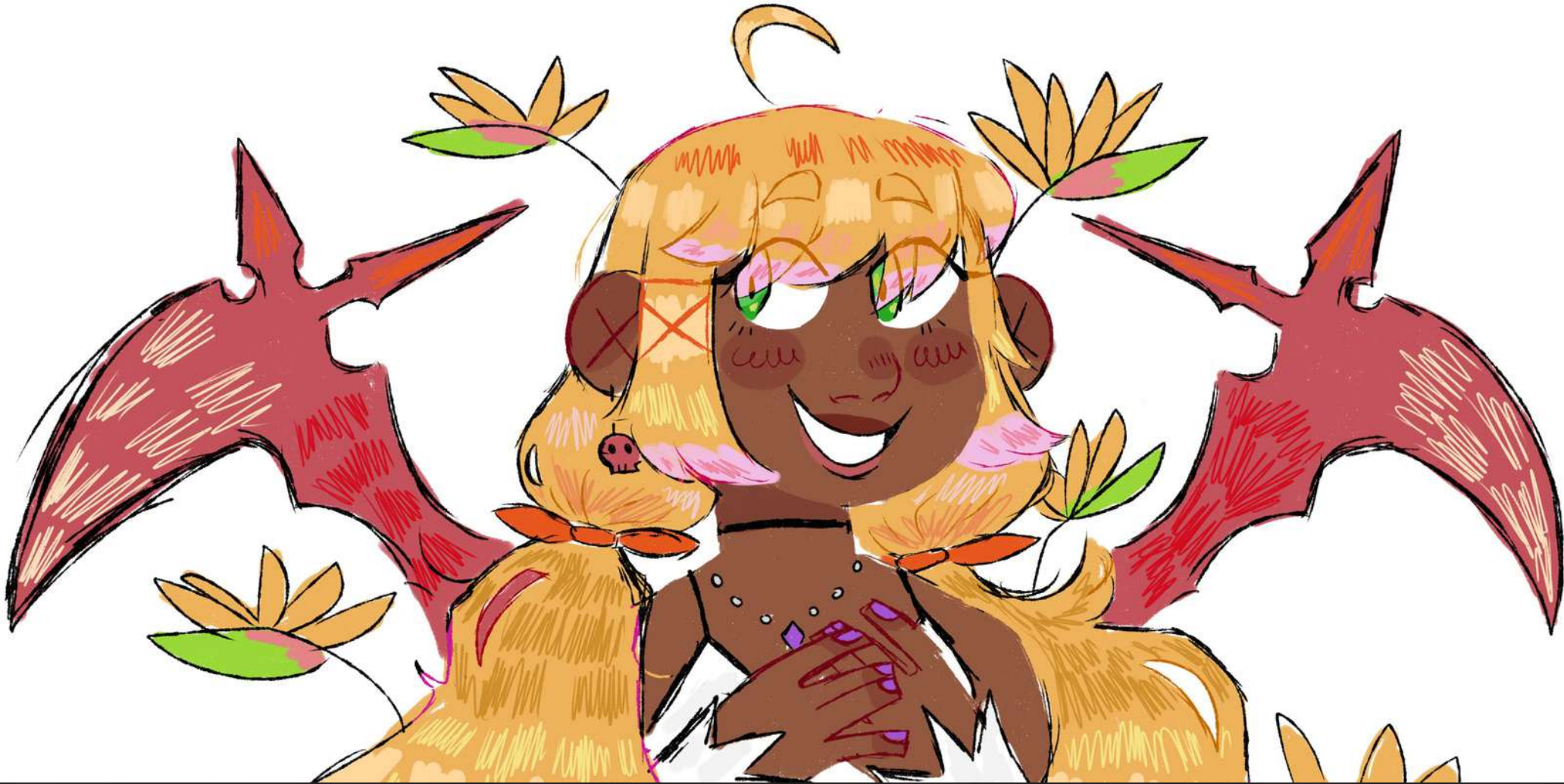
@NAT.LA.ART

"There wasn't much representation for black kids, specifically dark skin black girls in cartoons. I wanted to hand in my original character from my webcomic Cherry Pop in costume cause it's Halloween and I wanted them to look festive. Though it's hard drawing everyday and I didnt complete all the prompts, I have alot of fun and will most likely do it again next year."



@JORDANBANKSARTS

**"Blacktober has given me
so much freedom, and just
support from my peers
both black and non black.
It was so much fun
exploring on what
characters would look like
and I can't wait for next
year's Blacktober!"**



@XIONFINALMIX

"Blacktober was honestly a dream come when I had first heard of it! Though in all honesty, Blacktober is every month for me haha! But blacktober meant I could see others interpretations of fictional characters as black! People (Racists) always argue that there are a ton of black characters in media- but it was never that easy to actually get that kind of representation in the first place, or good representation for that matter. I think that's why blacktober was real important, especially this year. It shows that the black art community is still going and want change, even after all the crap that we had to deal with all this year. Here's to hoping next year's blacktober is amazing :)!!!"



Lucy

@GENIMKING

"As a black artist blacktober was a trip, I didn't do many prompts but a luck would have it I did do many black characters. It was good seeing all the other black artists come out swinging, I learnt alot and I feel I grew closer to my people just from being able to see them reimagine beloved characters in our race. In short It was dope"



@CARMAHNM_ART

"This was my first time participating in a month-long event. I knew I wouldn't be able to do all 31 days, but I created 13 pieces this month! Usually I only put out 2-4 pieces a month, but with this event I felt motivated to do more. This has also helped me cut down the time it takes me to render a piece, I've learned new techniques, and discovered new amazing artists! I loved seeing everyone's take on character designs. This community is so supportive and talented, I love it! I'm so overjoyed with the positive responses to my artwork, it really is reassuring. I've definitely grown as an artist this October, and I couldn't be happier. Thank you for making this event a reality!"



@RENDERGODDESS1

"What Blacktober meant to me was taking risks regardless of how people feel. Nobody can stop you from creating your own world."



Use relaxer again
and it's your ass on
the line.

Y-yes,
ma'am...

@WHERESDABALANCE

"Blacktober really made me happy. It showed me so many different ways of interpreting characters. It was so fun to have more characters represent me and what I'm used to seeing. I felt more freedom interpreting characters my own way than anything else, it was so fun to do. I would love to do this again and again for many years to come with many new characters that come out. Even with black characters that I've seen artists create over the course of this event, I especially want to draw them for Blacktober!"



@WHATDAJAY_

"#Blacktober was not only a way of celebrating black artists, but the joy our art can bring to others in our community! Seeing people have so much fun creating was such a refreshing sight amongst a very trying and disheartening time."



ANGE
USHIROMIYA



@DRPCREATES

"I hadn't originally planned to participate, I never draw fanart and my schedule has been draining and crazy throughout the pandemic. But I had done a quick drawing in September when black Peach was going around and it was actually a lot of fun, so I decided to join in. I drafted up a list of my favorite redheads and started planning before October started. As an artist with a small follower count, this has been the most interaction any of my art has ever gotten. Seeing other people getting excited over some of my favorite characters has made my heart swell. And this has brought me a lot of joy, black characters are underrepresented but they never have red hair and as a black redhead it was important for me to reimagine my favorite redheads. I know its a niche area but doing this has meant so much and has been so cathartic!"



@JOSH_BRUNSON21

"Blacktober has been a great time to connect with and lift up other black artists, and to reimagine my favorite media in a way that represents us.

Seeing the black art community come together, especially this year, has been really inspiring and I'm glad to have been a part of it. Looking forward to next year!"



@LIEUTKENNY

"Blacktober has been a way for me to express myself in characters that I've had a strong connection with. I want to see more faces like mine"



@CCMFORTABLYNUMB

"I admit I wasn't able to do as many pieces as I would have hoped to create. But I, above my own involvement, loved seeing all my friends, people I follow and artists I've found through this event make amazing artwork."



@TOORURII

"#Blacktober really managed to find a special place in my heart. Because of societal standards, black representation in media receives hatred constantly, and growing up I've realized that I had been conditioned to hate the color of my own skin. However, events like this have really helped me with my confidence and self-love in general, and #Blacktober specifically really was the turning point that led me to be unapologetically loud about how much fun I'm having drawing people who look like me and the people around me, especially in the form of my favorite characters! I'm still pretty young, literally just a teen earlier this year, but I really hope that this feeling can reach a younger and younger audience as time goes on, so no one has to live with the self-loathing of our own melanin like our current generation has."



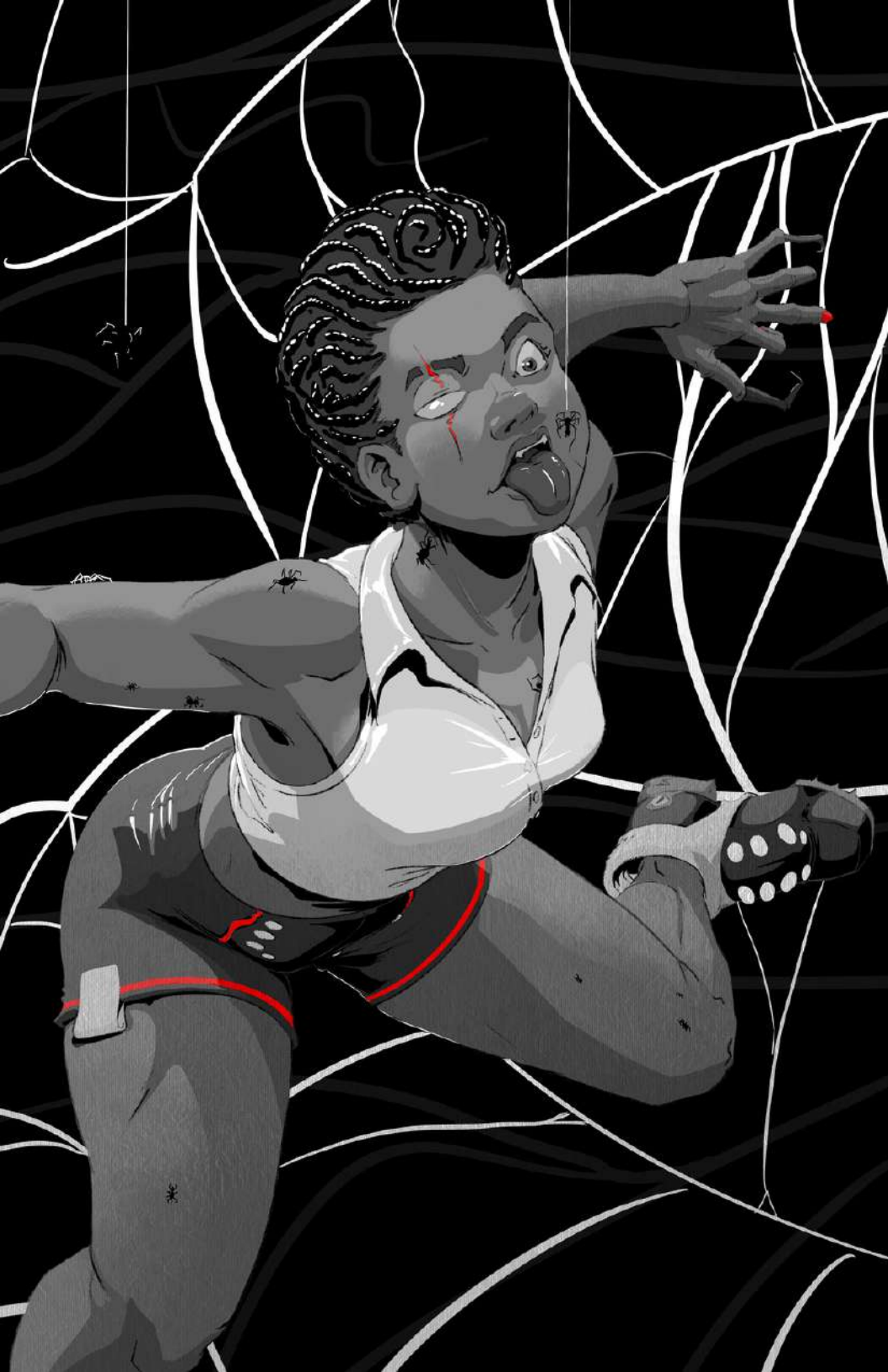
@LIGERBOMBZ

"Finally got me noticed in the fandom I've been apart of (but ultimately invisible in) for years now~"



@MOTHMOTELS

"Blacktober has meant so much to me as an artist. It's been the first time I've been able to draw black characters for a "reason" especially since I've been so afraid of backlash. Even though I've only been able to complete a few pieces, and only post one, it's been very meaningful. It was my first time challenging myself to do anymore than one piece of art a week. Seeing so many amazing artists as well. Many of the comments given to artists were extremely disrespectful and demoralizing, but I also have the highest respect for everyone who participated through the insults, even if they only posted for one day."



@DANIELHOOKERART

"I had a lot of fun with Blacktober in 2019. I used it to push black OCs because representation matters. I'm thankful that in 2020 someone was able to extend the hashtag out to so many creators!"



@SURENLICIOUS

"Oh my gosh, I LOVE Blacktober. Blacktober was a event where I was so happy to be allowed in with my mixed heritage, and it allowed me to embrace the aspects of myself that for so long have been kept under the rug.

I found a new community I can feel at home in, and that is what made me love this event so much. I made lots of new friends too!"



@ONCEADDAI

"I had an amazing experience participating in #Blacktober. Fan art is such a great way to explore art styles, practice technique, and most importantly, have fun. Participating in #Blacktober, I got to draw my childhood favorites. I reimagined heroes and villains, and experimented with genres of art that I'd always wanted to try but never quite felt liberated enough to test. But even more so, it was an absolute joy working alongside so many talented Black creators and getting the opportunity to create a cannon of work that embraces and celebrates Blackness in all its multitudes. -Elizabeth Agyemang"



@DEANNE_GO

"Blacktober has been an amazing experience! I've absolutely loved seeing everyone's reinterpretations of their favorite characters and being able to discover cool new artists. I'd love to participate again!"



@MIAPNG

"Blacktober meant inclusion for all of the entertainment media I had been left out of as a black woman. It meant that I get to have a little fun and reimagine all of these characters that was generally perceived as anything but black and make them black. It gave me joy to see myself, even just in color, in these characters and how that made them relatable on a whole different level other than writing. It also brought a stronger sense of community for me. Black Art was not something I saw, especially in the anime scene, so seeing a burst of styles, character, shows etc. was heartwarming. I've spent years watching these shows with either a disregarded token black character or an all "ambiguously Caucasian" cast and never felt that I was ever there, but Blacktober changed that. There were tons of people like me out there."



@DREDDLIGHTFULL

**"To me blacktober is just
fun! Just a way for us to
express our self and
show love to our favorite
series"**



@BUBBATEA.EXE

**"Although I didn't have the
opportunity to fully
participate, I'm glad I could
be able to see and support
other black artists!
Everyone was so talented!"**



@ITRIEDBUTOHWELL

"At first it was really discouraging seeing all the flack the event was getting, but I actually discovered some amazing artists I never heard of because of this! And it really boosted my morale seeing other black people into the things I love most: art and anime/games I'm so glad I participated in this"



@LUVZ_LILY

"Blacktober for me has shown that there are many other artists out there like me that look like me and have similar interests in art, anime, and cartoons/movies, and all the talent that comes with it. It has shown me that I and my art belong more than I once thought it did. That there is support for black artists and our art and characters we choose to draw. It has pushed me to create art I'm proud of while building an audience for it."



@MAGJICQAL

"I think this event was such a wonderful experience, to see everyone's interpretations of different characters and styles was truly amazing! It was in a sense, comforting to see blackness and nostalgia mixed and pushed to the front."



@BNICOLE_LEWIS

"Blacktober was an experience that I didn't know I needed. Not only were my skills in character design strengthened, but so was my love for the characters being depicted. There's just something so deeply wonderful about seeing all the favs that you grew up with- that you identified with, and emulated, and were a source of inspiration to you- actually look like you!"



@PASNINETEEN

"i've always been that person who draws what they want, how they want, but i've always been a bit.. scared i suppose about drawing characters i like and relate to as black, but seeing so many black artists draw characters i love (and ones i never even knew about!!) while showcasing how versatile we are was VERY reassuring and has inspired me to just. draw everybody black."



@ERINMCDOWELLART

"Just seeing all the characters with a wide range of black features and skin tones being represented in a positive light has been amazing. I didn't have many characters to relate to as a kid so seeing that during Blacktober and being able to provide that rep to others with my own work has made me so happy!"

Day 3
Protagonist
X Vines

@InkdEyes
2020

"DON'T YOU
TRUST ME?"

-POSION IVY

"I TRUST HANDCUFFS." - BATMAN

@INKDEYES

"Blacktober was a way to gain confidence in the a community I had mistakenly thought I couldn't be apart of. To see such beautiful work and speak with so many talented people that I never would have found on my own is like a breath of fresh air. The love shown, I'm so happy to have been apart of it."



@DRAWDANII

"Blacktober has been such a good time. It was so exciting to see so much creativity and joy from the black artist community. Probably the best part of the event was seeing how excited people got seeing their favs as black and being able to relate to these characters in a new way."

RAPIDASH No. 078



@SOCORDIASOMNIA

"I think a big reason why it meant so much to me was because, for the past couple years, I had been going through a lot of discrimination as a Black creative. The amount of times I'd lose customers when they found out I was Black or the constant situation of being in a group for artists and I'm singled out for being "too loud" or "too aggressive" when all I want to do is be heard and appreciated for who I am really left me with zero faith in the world.

However, having an art event happen that was literally for uplifting people like me and making us be heard and seen was important to me on a level I can't really express. It felt like a chance to be acknowledged as just a person existing and doing what I loved. It made me feel less alone than usually.

I wasn't able to participate as much as I wanted to due to issues with my mental health, but from what I was able to do I felt like I was finally apart of something that mattered and not just shoved aside or ignored for making characters who look like me. It was nice and maybe I'll be able to do more next year!"



@GAIAS_MUSINGS

"Blacktober has shown me that there are many different ways to design a character. From Afros to cornrows, skins of different shades can work with the many colors of the rainbow. I was unsure of this event at first. "Is this disrespectful?" "Are we taking away from other cultures?" However as the month went on, I fell in love with a lot of pieces and it gave me a perspective on how we as black people feel about ourselves. Hearing that cosplayers feel more comfortable dressing up as certain characters, young children seeing themselves in these pieces. It's a beautiful thing. I want to take what I've seen this month and apply it to my art and give people those same feelings, and connect more with myself too."



@XUBBLES

"Blacktober has been such a chill, fun and uplifting experience for me! While I already follow artists who create that representation where it's needed, this event just created a BURST of amazing work from creators of all kinds! It's been awesome to see this diversity and talent from my fellow black artists, and it's been so fun to see all the support everyone's gotten too. Of course there's been some haters, but all the beauty and talent we put out in the world regardless is the true magic of the black experience!"



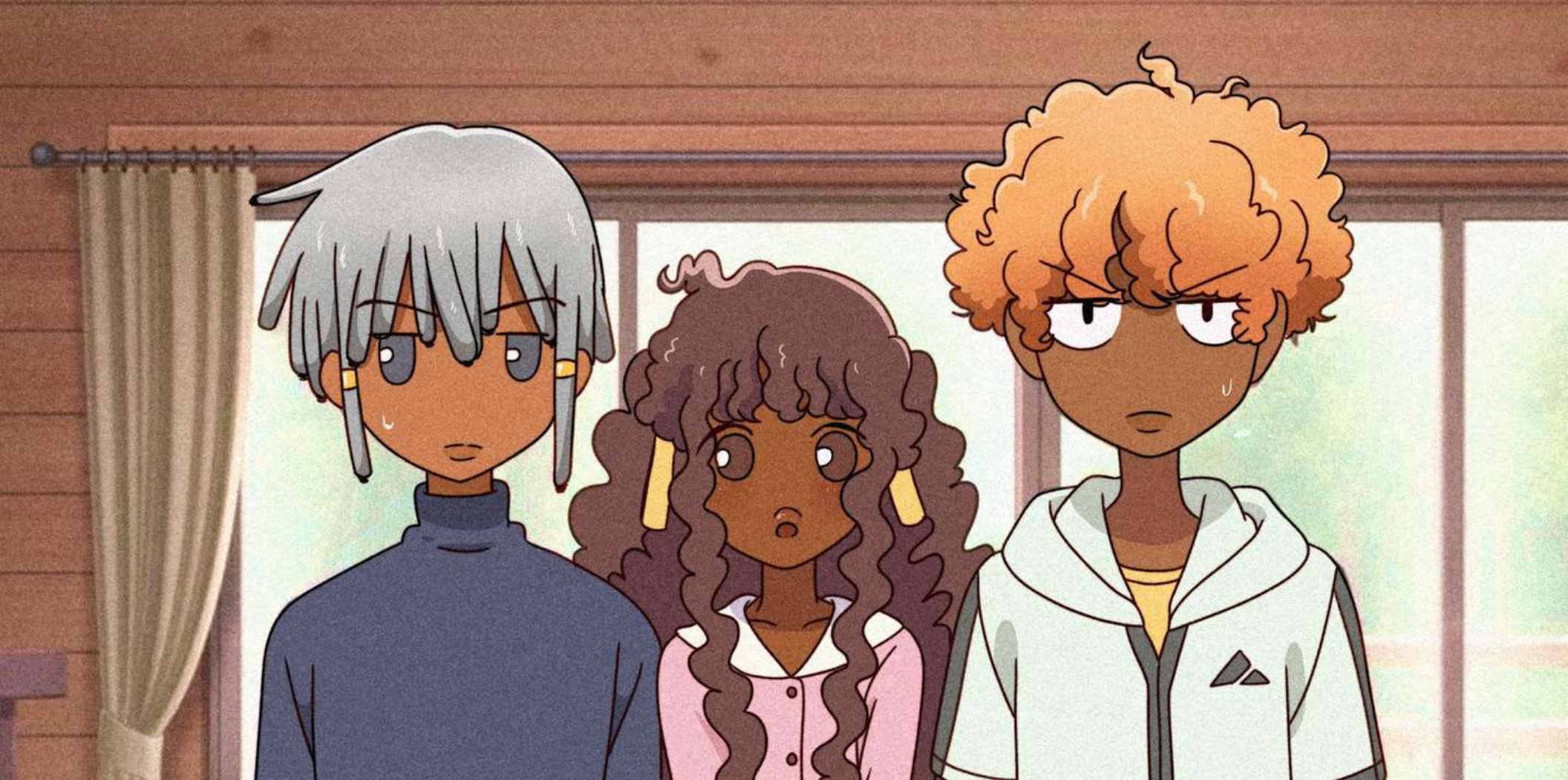
@MEDIEVALTRAUMA

"Blacktober was a period of growth for me. I was able to meet new and extremely talented mutuals that are as passionate as me, and enjoy vibrant colors as much as I do (I'm looking at you @FoolBrew). I was able to practice and be more comfortable drawing characters with darker and more vibrant skin tones; and, be more comfortable drawing and showing my black OCs and other Black Lives Matter ideas (Such as Black Doll Lives Matter). I was able to see my grandmother, my mother, and my siblings grin with excited and joyful facial expressions seeing more characters or heroes like them. Huge thanks to the @blackcardmems server for teaching me the black side of things, helping me to be comfortable with my own skin, hair, and culture; and, just being able to rant about certain things with racism being a factor. Thank you so much for the experience, I look forward to next year!"



@KHPRISUN

"The amount of engagement and life that was both given and received between Black artists of all different degrees and mediums, had to be the most warm and grounded comfort I have ever felt in my art career. I'm only in my 20s, but seeing how each work positively enamored and enraptured folks all across the world online, to even outside of social media was fucking phenomenal. Knowing that kids, teens, and adults, inspired and uplifted each other during this entire month, even more seeing it, truly is one of the most beautiful and human moments I have ever experienced in my life. Thank you."



@LEIADOOODELS

"The blacktober has allowed me to connect with other black artist! Its also boosted my confidence in my blackness! Seeing my faves portrayed to look more like me is really nice and encourages me to make my own black content! I'm grateful to this event, it's given me a following I didn't know I could achieve and it's allowed me to find artist I'd probably would have never seen before this event!"



@CLKURAGEZ

"Blacktober has made all my childhood dreams come true and I'm so glad that I've heard the same come from other people. Our childhoods were full of stereotypes of us, so to be able to redesign our favorites really meant something to me. The OC bank was the perfect addition to the event in the way it gave Black OCs the love and attention they deserve. I can only hope that the Black joy and excellence carries on in all of our creative endeavors."



@THATONENEGRAUX

"It allowed me to showcase my headcanons and character design skills! It was also amazing seeing other black artists' portrayals of different characters!"



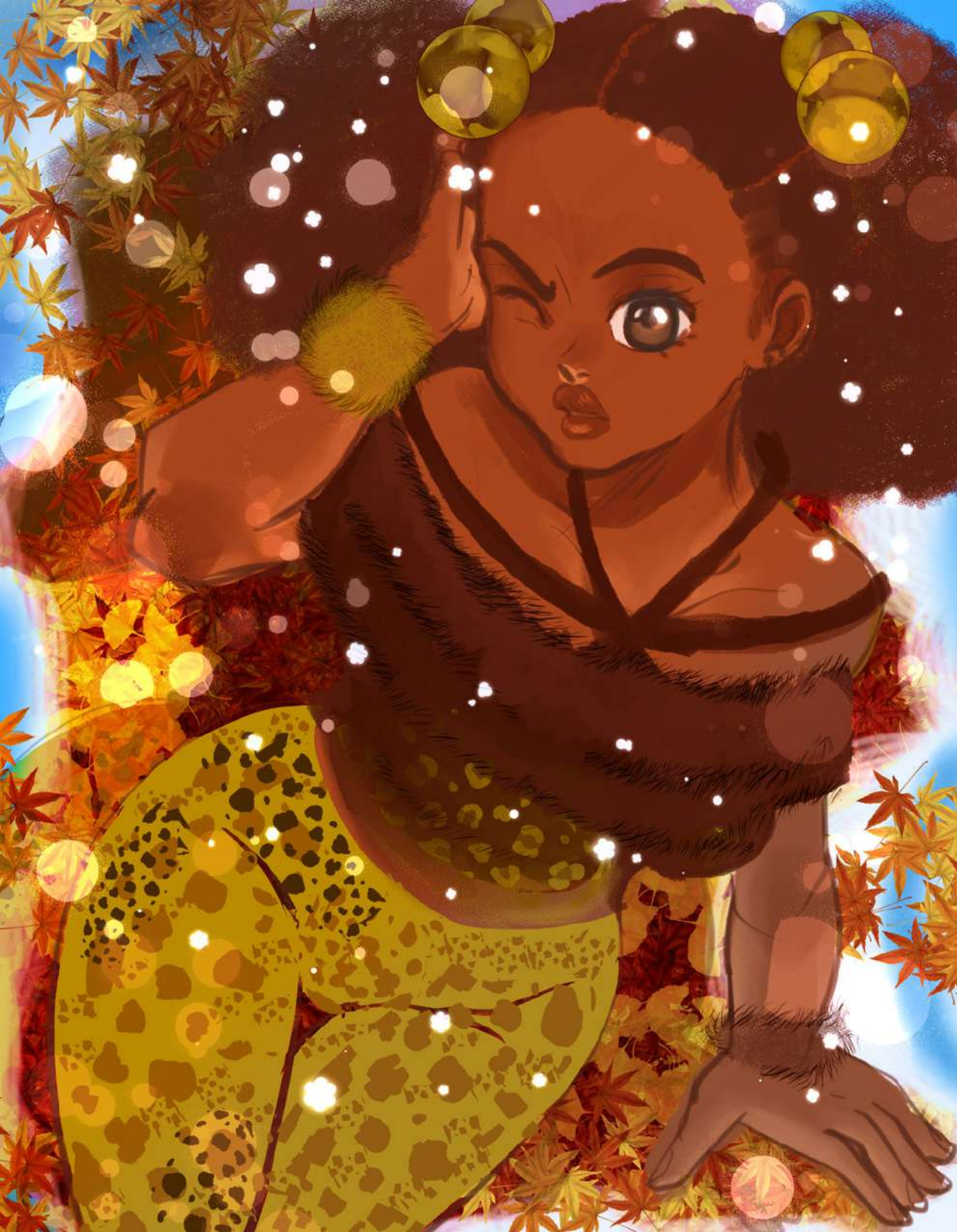
@AKAZUKINBREAKER

"This event has been a really pleasant experience for me. It's been nice seeing black characters in art and seeing the work of other black creators. I really hope this energy continues even after the month ends. I love that I've been able to connect with other artists through blacktober."



@AMECOEVR

"I've discovered so many artists, made new friends and just overall felt so good about seeing characters that looked like me. It gave me confidence in myself and in my work as well. I designed Zelda, Link and Ganon (they're all on my twitter profile) inspired by west African culture (mainly Ivory Coast and Senegal, my home countries.) It was something I had been thinking about for months already and while I did feel a bit nervous at first, I was super excited to share a bit about my cultures and I've gotten so so much positive feedback and love on each design, I don't think I would ever have this kind of response, talking to people who loved seeing Zelda in traditional clothing and just seeing people enjoying my art without the hashtag. I have been constantly showing some of my mutuals art to my irl friends and family and it really felt good to all of us. It's like a fun family event. The best part about the challenge was seeing all the different hairstyles!!!"



@DEERLLIE

"Blacktober meant that for 31 days all black artists got to sit together at the table to go dumbass watching as a unit and, while exhausting, the energy was replenished a lot faster with live clapbacks.

Blacktober also started something strong and stuck to its rules of creating a black space, becoming a perfect response to any "Well, why don't they just make their own stuff?!?" arguments. I (irregularly) did it for a month, forced to see ridicule, misunderstanding and idiocy when I just wanted to see some hairstyles & darker palettes but I also saw "Blacktober Is A Hashtag Full Of Black Artistic Excellence".

I am reminded we do have culture we can add to these pieces that is specific to the Black american experience; stuff that I didn't even think mattered like them lil hairballs my cousin would clack around my braids, got a bigger response than I thought!

Yall I saw Samurai Jack with dreads its over I won & racists was mad all month AND to be able to say I am apart of that beauty everyday by simply existing? Because when the month is up the art is my skin?? Oh baby.

Babbeeeeyyyy give it uppp, its me. I wiinnn."



@PLASTICBOTTRU

"An amazing opportunity to explore African cultures and weave it into my favorite genre; isekai fantasy romance! With an all-black character lineup!"



@TETTYARTS

"Blacktober was important to me. As someone who watches a lot of anime, I don't typically see characters who look like me in the media I enjoy, and when I do see them they're ultimately unimportant side characters. Blacktober was an opportunity to create representation where there is none."



@STEVLAILLE

"I grew up not seeing many black people in media, obviously. Seeing this event has made me realize how much I would've come to love myself and my skin color if I saw myself more in cartoons and anime. Hearing that an anime girl's skin was "beautifully white like snow" and seeing next to no western black cartoon characters is something I deeply internalized. Im so happy to see this event, despite the racist hatred, bring so many black creators together."



@MSFORTUNE_CHAN

"Blacktober lit a fire in me and inspired me to keep cosplaying. It was so nice waking up to see characters that looked like me. The creativity from black artists left me speechless at times too. It was just so refreshing."

DAGGER
100720
#blacktober



@THATDAGGERSTAR

"Seeing everyone pitch in and reimagine characters for blacktober was heartwarming. There's no reason really why the characters reimaged couldn't be black and the fact that it made bigots mad was interesting."



I've got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve
I can walk the ocean floor
And never have to
breathe.

Maya Angelou

@BUTTERY_SAMOSA

"Community, visibility and connecting with fellow Black-mixed and multiracial Black artists across the globe. I've gotten to see more representation of Black and Black-mixed culture."

@buttery_samosa



@RICEGRAINN

"Blacktober has directed me to an art community that feels like home. Black artist all over the world have been supporting me and it's really inspiring. What also inspires me is making art that looks like me and my followers."



@PURITEARS

"Blacktober reignited my spark for creating. Drawing my favorite characters representing my cultural background reminded me of why I love art— the ability to uplift and celebrate people of all backgrounds. Childhood me would have cried with joy at the amazing art that came from this month and I hope to be able to create media that makes other kids like me feel that same joy. It was delightful to see the impact blacktober had— uniting the black community and highlighting black creatives."



@COLLMETORI

"#Blacktober has given me a chance to see so many talented black creators' work and made me want to draw again. Even though I didn't get to participate as much as I would have hoped, I was still really happy to do what I could, as well as have the chance and see and share everyone else's work! I hope that I will be able to participate even more next year, and I can't wait to see what everyone creates from now until next #blacktober :)"



@CAKETHULHU

"As someone who grew up in the social media era of 2011-2014... basically every fanart I'd seen was, well, white people. I struggled a lot with my identity back then, and honestly was embarrassed that I was Black in the first place. This event has shown me that there was NO reason for everyone to be drawn white back then, and I hope that younger people these days can grow up seeing that it's ok to be Black, and it's something that we shouldn't be ashamed of!"



@FRIENDCODED

"I never thought I'd see a day where something like Blacktober existed. Sure, there's black history month, but this was an event made by black people of the current day to celebrate what we have now, and what's possible for the future. Seeing all the characters I know and love finally look like me, made by tons of creative black people that I wouldn't have known existed prior...it was a beautiful experience."



@KERAUNICTONIC

"Blacktober has been literally a dream come true. People don't understand how negative stereotypes of black people permeate through their minds, and by turning black characters in to heroes of all types, it helps to showcase how human we are. Being able to participate in this event has released a surge of inspiration across the community, as well in myself. I can say that everyone who has participated has been moved to not only continue having fun with designs of established characters, but also to feel more comfortable and confident in sharing their original ones. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Here's to next year and the years to come!"



@BRISSEKJINDS

"Despite the onslaught of antiblackness from outsiders, blacktober has been an incredible way to find other black creatives through shared love of media. I love looking at artists that have drawn the same characters as me during blacktober, just to see how different people interpret the same characters. My most fond memory of my blacktober experience was a friend showing my Rin and Len piece (posted above as the image submission) to his little brother, and his brother, a young black vocaloid fan, getting super excited. It just warmed my heart and reminded me how important black representation is. Despite the constant stream of antiblackness, the black art community found a way to thrive and I hope this energy extends beyond the month of October."



@BOBBIEPRINCETTE

"Blacktober helped me find my creative spark again after months stuck in a creative rut due to burn out. Seeing my feed flooded with images of Black faces, drawn by fellow Black artists has been so healing. I've made so many friends and new connections and I'm so grateful that this went from a funny tweet, to a real, successful social media event! Thank you !"



@CEMILIO_FRANK

"This event was amazing for me. Seeing an explosion of art from my favorite black artists and discovering new artists has been such a beautiful experience. I could see how all of the redesigns of new and old characters were lovingly made by each person. For me personally, each piece I've made this month has been my favorite thus far. I'm so happy to have been a part of this and I'm so happy that we, as the black artist community, could really show off our talent!"



@STARCRE8TOR

"Hmm. This has been a bitter-sweet event to be honest. An amazing way for black people to portray themselves in their favorite characters, icons, shows, games and more. An event that has brought together so many people I haven't met before who have amazing skills not to mention they're just like me, struggling to get their voices heard. The other side of this though has been the raging hatred towards our event and the backlash and precautions i took care off just to be safe. Its hard to put this into words but i say its been....an experience. Perhaps the more we do this every year, the more confident i'll feel! Thank you for this amazing hashtag <33"



@ANGELHEART2015

"Blacktober as an event was very refreshing and gave me the motivation to continue with my art! I gained some confidence to draw a little more consistently despite not being able to draw a lot due to work and my mental health. I was very excited to see a lot of black artists participating in this event! Black joy was overwhelming! I followed smaller black artists I never knew and it's such a game-changer! Black art is beautiful and it gives me confidence to continue to move forward and grow as a black artist! I can say with pride that I AM young, gifted, AND black! And that's a whole fact!"



@YOLIAF

"I like blacktober because it is often times very difficult to give us black creators a platform when a lot of people tend to have racial bias against us. It feels like this helped us gain notoriety we need to succeed in a world often against us. I'm glad we're finally getting recognition, especially at a time where we're seeing so much injustice."



@FEAUC

"Blacktober was truly a ridiculously fun event! I didn't get to participate much in terms of making a lot of content simply because I was swamped with a lot of personal feelings, but logging on every day and seeing new art and Black artists indulging in being unapologetically Black put a smile on my face every time. I hope next time around this year, I'll be able to make more content! I had so much fun and made new mutuals as well! Thank you for creating this event. It means the entire world to a Black kid like me, who grew up surrounded by faces that didn't look like mine."



@GALACTIGATORR

"Thanks to #Blacktober, I was able to move past my art block and the constant negative news being thrown at the black community all year (even if only temporarily) to create pieces that I not only personally enjoy, but others in the black community enjoy as well.

Since, as well all know, accurate representation of black people in media is rather uncommon, #Blacktober inspired me to modify just a few of my comfort characters to actually look like me. As a result, I started to appreciate my own identity more while also finding dozens of other black creatives who can relate to how I feel. Although this event only lasted a month, seeing black people recognize their own identities through my character renditions was truly the most rewarding part of it all. Thank you #Blacktober for helping me love my melanin a little more this month. <3"



@BENNYGUMMM

"Blacktober was such a fun idea!! To me it was just about allowing Black artists (and other Black people) to experience joy with the characters we all enjoy. Especially in very stressful times, it was a nice way to make the community feel a little closer by making us all pitch in to this common goal."



@SMITHYSBUD

"For me, Blacktober has been a chance to show the world how much some of my favorite characters resonate with me and to see how other people's fave characters resonate with them. It's been amazing seeing all the reimaginings of characters from all over as people that look like me, and I hope this inspires others to make art where they can feel like they belong!"



@SDFSTUDIOS

"Blacktober has been an amazing event for me, because I've connected to so many artists from various parts of the globe as well as designing characters with different black features/skin tones/hair styles etc."



@TAZARATERUMI

"Blacktober gave me the chance to explore what it means to be black and a black artist. I developed a newfound appreciation for myself, fellow artists, and my own creations. Many of my characters were designed to represent me in some way! On the other hand, taking my personal favourites and making them look like me was a whole new feeling. It was like giving my child self the representation they have always wanted! Definitely looking forward to next year!"



@SYDNEYGOUAMBA

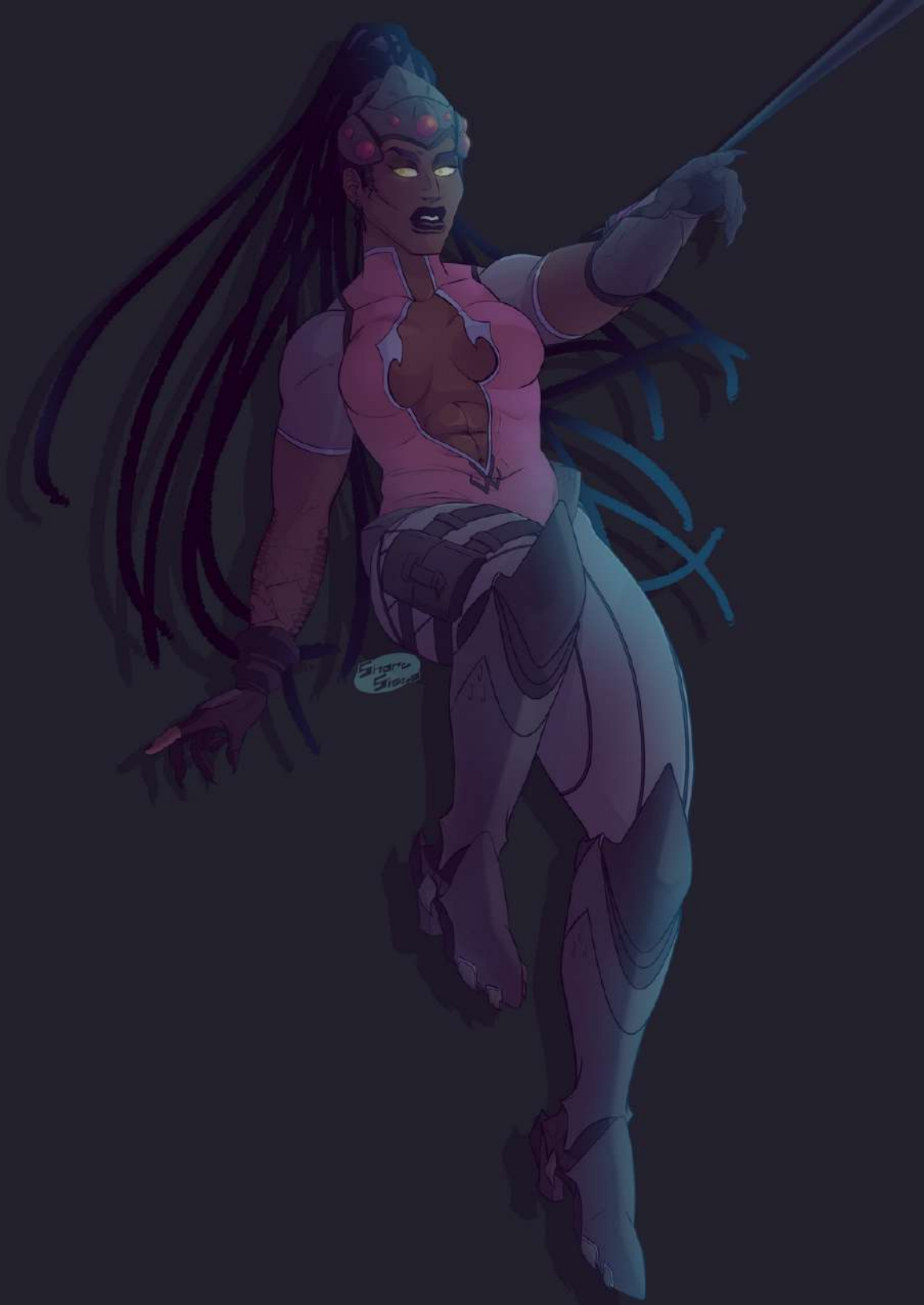
"For me #Blacktober was a chance to explore designing more black characters. It got me to draw again after being in a bit of slump due to the everything that has been the year 2020. As a fun daily exercise it reminded me that I actually know what I'm doing (at least a little bit), and after taking a break, I was reminded of what I actually want to do with my art.

But more than that, it was a good opportunity for people to freely enjoy re-imagining iconic characters as if they reflected what black people look like, instead of just borrowing bits of our culture for the aesthetic. And it gives us a chance to see ourselves in inspirational positions, which has been incredible to witness."



@KEEXIEWEEXIE

"This event was so amazing to me. I was able to push myself as an artist and witness so many amazing character designs along the way. Not only were our creative capabilities amplified, but I feel like the Black artist community grew and became better connected because of it. We were able to rise above any negativity that came our way, and celebrate and lift one another up, and that's so important."



@SHORTSISTA

"It's been a wild ride to say the least but I'm glad to get the opportunity to celebrate with other black creators and boost everyone's spirits what with all the messed up stuff we've been through these past months. It just feels nice to be celebrated every once in awhile lmao"



@ARTWOEZ

"Oh my goodness, I'm tearing up writing this but this event meant so much to me, especially with how this year was going and especially with my own personal art journey. Not only have I made many new friends but I've gained new opportunities, customers, and a new outlook on my work. All from getting to recreate my childhood faves as inclusive, bad-ass, Blackity Black beautiful pieces of art. I have been re-inspired and have really stepped out of my comfort zone as a direct result of participating in Blacktober. Thank you both so much. ☺☺"



@MUSCIALDELICACY

"Blacktober has been an amazing experience for me! I was too busy to participate as much as I wanted to, but seeing everyone's contributions was inspiring. It was really nice seeing us come together and support each other."



@MIKAYLALEANNART

"It helped me see that the characters i wanted to see in my media deserved the place they should have got. So many times black characters are omitted and just forgotten but people don't realize how much it makes a difference for your heroes to look like you."



@LOSTBLUEJAY

"Seeing so many characters being drawn as black has been the most sublime experience I've ever seen. As a black woman, it meant much and touched my heart to see characters doused in black culture for once, and it showed the potential there is for more black characters to exist that can be enjoyed by all when accurately represented. I greatly appreciated this event and wish it could last longer. But I can't wait for next time when Blacktober comes back around. Thank you all for this wonderful fun event!"



@VELVADEANARTS

"So far this event has been so great I've been able to see so many amazing works from anime, cartoons, and even cosplay. There has also been so many black artist that adding a bit of their own culture into some of the redesigns that expresses where they're from and its just wonderful seeing this."



@IZZYBRANDO_

"Blacktober has meant community. It's meant representation. It's meant nothing but love and adoration for black artists, between black artists especially. It's been amazing to be able to contribute to Blacktober and to offer my unique experience as an Afrolatinx cosplayer. I'm so glad to see so many different artists come forward with their work and to be met with open arms and encouragement. Black representation is so important in the nerd world and the art world and to be able to be a part of this and to see others has been nothing short of amazing and fulfilling"



@COOLESTEGG_ART

"Blacktober was a fun event to sort of make doing what I would do as a kid, make my favorite characters looks like me, more acceptable. Yeah, there were tons of detractors and racists trying to tear us down but our creative spirits won't die down. Blacktober was magic and I can't wait for a second one."



@CARTOONISTQUEEN

"It basically means for me to be happy and take pride in the skin I am in. My race does define me, but in the way I choose. Black people are capable of many amazing things and I am among that group."



@LOLAMEIMI

"All it gave me was motivation to draw more. This year has been like depressing af so Blacktober helped with that. Being able to find a shit load of black artists/ cosplayers, block annoying racists/draw my fav characters has been fun af. Also gave me some confidence to try cosplaying???? Plus I got to see a lot of original works and even draw a few of my own black characters/ including some canon black characters as well!!! Plus I also got to play around with skin tones and stuff dark skin,brown light skin, vitiligo, albinism black people!! To add on I tried exploring drawing dreadlocks and box braids even tho I'm black I still struggled with such things. So yeah that's it!"



@ARTISTTRES

"I've always wanted a huge event so I can get to know other Black artists— and Blacktober exposed me to some of the best artists and artwork I've seen in a while. I've made so many friends through this event and received so much help and support from my folk. It's really just been a great experience and I hope to see y'all again next year!"



@ATTIMAT_ART

"Blacktober has honestly helped boost my creativity and has helped to push my character designs. Seeing for example how black artists have made black hairstyles work on certain anime characters. Hair in anime can be super wild so seeing how other black artists problem solve to fit our hair and still have it look like the anime character was incredibly inspiring and a motivator for me personally. It really showed me how much more I can do with black hair in terms of design. The Babs and Buster drawing that I drew is a testament to that. Buster's hair is a style I don't think I would of ever have thought of before blacktober. Despite all the ups and downs I think blacktober was an awesome if not my favorite/ the event that inspired me the most!"



@THEYDUH

"Blacktober was the perfect event for me and others to finally see ourselves in our childhood favorites!"



@MYRIADGOD

"Blacktober, for me has been a chance for me to recognize and explore the part of me I feel has often been ignored or forgotten by others and even myself. I'm half black, and have been struggling with identity issues since childhood. I haven't really had a way to express those feelings constructively due to having a sense of being misplaced within every community. It's difficult and very lonely. Blacktober allowed me and encouraged me to feel accepted and part of a larger whole.

Because of this event I felt welcomed by a community I was previously nervous about voicing I was apart of due to feeling like an imposter. It gave me confidence in myself and experiences. I was even able to open up to my father about my identity struggles and shared the blacktober art I made with him."

@HALAL_WEEB



"Blacktober honestly meant a lift from a depressive funk for me. My motivation for drawing was slowly dying just because of lack of confidence/direction. This piece blew up and seeing all these INCREDIBLY kind comments about it (albeit a few racist ones but truly just a few in comparison) honestly made me cry. When I uploaded the piece , I didn't expect much. It was genuinely just a loose sketch lol. So to wake up from a nap to find 50+ nice comments, and even more trickling in, was a surreal experience that gave me the confidence to take drawing seriously again.

And it wasn't even just my work getting attention. Seeing all these black small creatives blowing up and having my TL filled with countless breathtaking blacktober art was never not sweet to see. I discovered lots of incredibly talented people this past month and followed them ALL lmao. An event like this is definitely for the little art accounts and that's what's so great about it.

Can't wait for next year !!"



@VOIDMOTH

"It's been wonderful to see so many black artist get a chance to shine! I grew up hating my skin because most of my favorite characters (and most of the people around me) were white, and seeing them drawn dark makes me incredibly happy. It's also encouraged me to more strongly code my non-human characters as black and embrace my blackness."

@IBlackThings1



@IBLACKTHINGS1

"At first not much but from the discord server and ppl there it has made want to learn how to draw and not just edits"

Guy
@IBlackThings1



@TIANACONYERSART

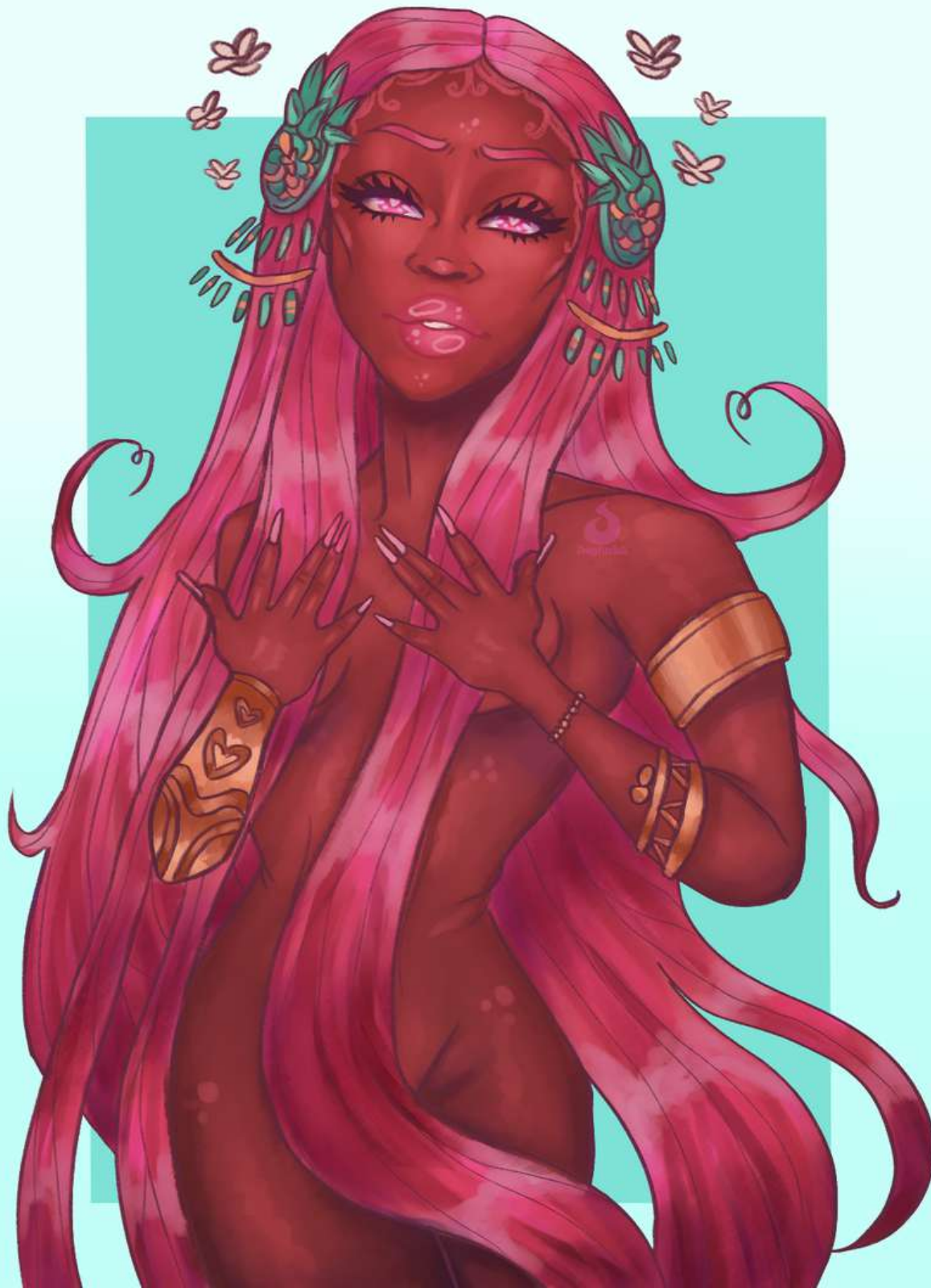
"#Blacktober has been a reflective and truly inspirational time for me. It's made me recognize how significant and rare it is seeing features like my own represented, reimagined, and recreated (especially in the characters I know and love). #Blacktober has also served to help build my understanding of my creative process and my confidence as an artist. In creating these daily, consecutive works, it made me recognize the often toxic thought process I undergo when creating art with the intention of posting on social media and forced me to be kinder to myself and not compare the speed and quality of what I create to my peers. I experimented. I pushed myself out of my comfort zone, and most importantly of all, I had a Black ass good time.

It is so easy to be surrounded and followed by disingenuous and disconnected people on the internet as a Black creator and #Blacktober has been such a relief from that as I got to see my circle and followers becoming more engaging, more personable, more kind, and best of all, more Black.

I foresaw the resistance #Blacktober would receive, but at the end of the day this event is greater and far more impactful than any of the hate will ever be. I say this with the most regard and sincerity, that this has been the biggest, Blackest event I've ever been a part of and the highlight of my 2020-- despite this pandemic.

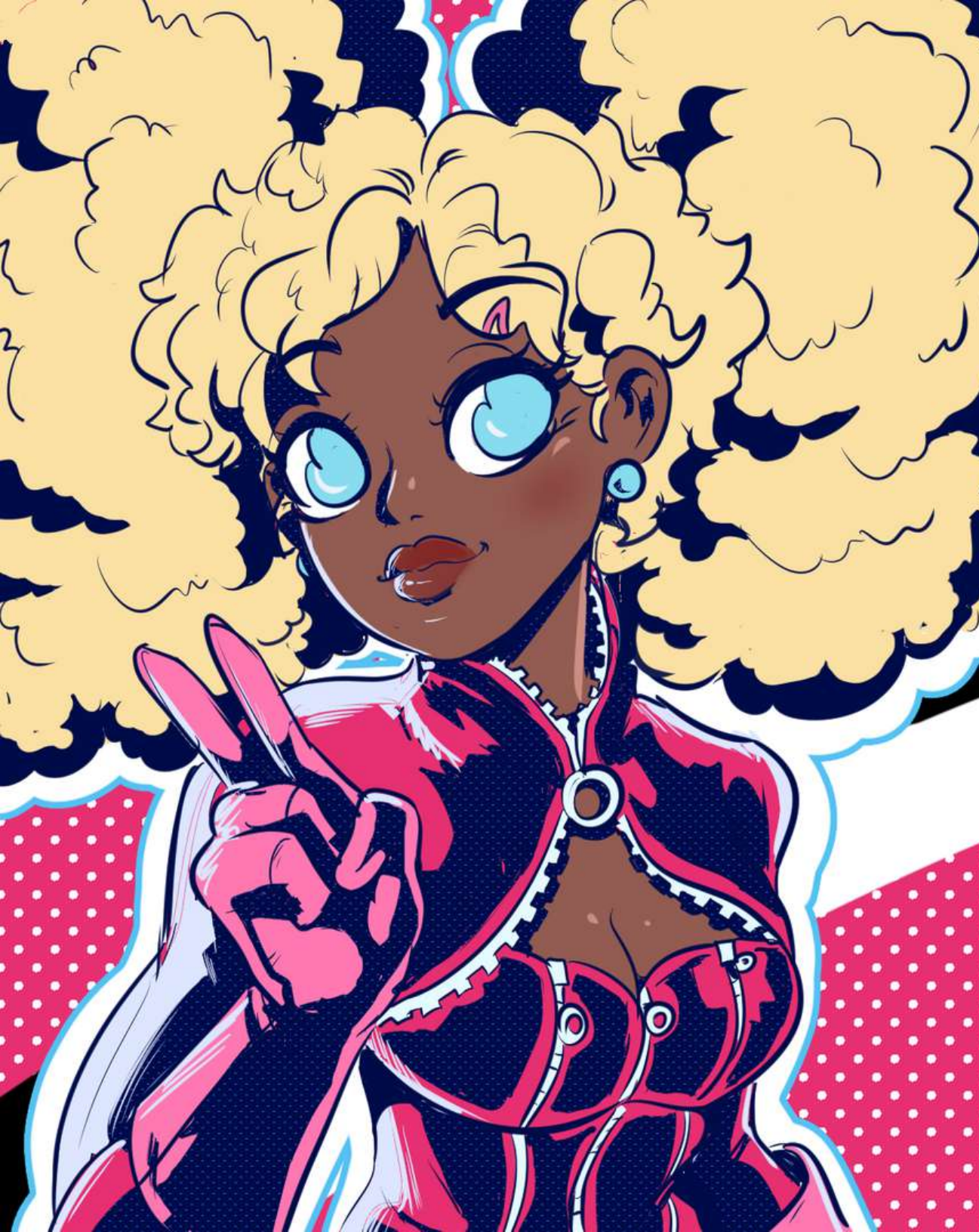
Similar to how movements like Black Lives Matter in it's first few years of national attention received hate, disregard, and disdain (and still continue to, let's not get it twisted.), we'll see #Blacktober grow to be internationally known and supported.

#Blacktober is what it looks like to hold space for ourselves and remain steadfast in that."



@TEENY_FIREBALL

"This past month has been the happiest I have been when it came to drawing I think ever. Blacktober for me was a breath of fresh air and a burst of newfound energy. Seeing so many talented Black artists draw things that made them so happy, being able to connect with so many other artists, big and small, made me proud to be in the community and proud to be myself. Black people are so talented and amazing so having our own event to highlight our talents made my spirit happy. Blacktober also helped me realize that I was a good artist. Having people interact with my work gave me a different kind of motivation. People enjoyed my work. Seeing that made me want to keep going as not only did I make myself proud in the progress I have made over the years, but the fact that my work could make other people happy. So many positive things came from this month and I am truly so thankful to the amazing artists who made this event possible. Blacktober to me means unity, support, and black excellence because we truly are amazing."



@SUSHIBURGERRR

"This event has granted me a chance to draw way more than I have had in the past. It was fun and helped me draw characters that could relate to myself a lot. Its something that really makes me feel great, and I would like to continue to draw for this event even after October. Thank You"



@SARAHW_DOODLES

"Never have I seen as many black characters and black artists on my twitter feed as I did this month and it was a blessing! After the year 2020 has been for black people Blacktober has been immensely healing to see and to participate in."



@5FTMARTIAN

"Although I couldn't participate for most of it, due to mental health, I was so excited in September. I made a whole schedule of characters I wanted to draw and seeing so many other Black creatives taking cartoons I grew up with and making them look like me felt empowering. Sometimes I forget that there's so many of us out there and it felt great to interact. I even joined the BCM discord so I can keep interacting with fellow black creatives."



@JENNYINBOLD

"It's been an opportunity for me to connect with and support other Black artists. An opportunity to redraw some of my favorite characters from my favorite cartoons as people that look like me.

To imagine myself and Black people as the protagonists of these shows, as having our own agency outside of being side characters and afterthoughts with no real characterization. It's genuinely been amazing being able to see so much Black talent on display and being able to celebrate it so openly and loudly. Despite all the racist and anti-Black abuse I and other Black artists got for our participation in the event, I can honestly say that, for me, it's the best art event I've ever participated in. There's just something magical about creating art with your people, for your people, and no amount of bigotry can ever overshadow the importance of that."



@NEATCOMETS

"I think that blacktober furthered in me the idea that there can and should be a place in media for people who have features and backgrounds like me. I enjoyed being able to reimagine characters within different contexts and it's honestly interesting to think about how different a series would be, even with just an aesthetic change."



@KALAPOTATOART

"What #Blacktober has meant to me is finding a community of black artists for really the first time in my life. It has been a joy to discover there are so many of us out here truly doing amazing work. Also it has allowed me to explore my art making like a never have before."



@SOLADRAWS

"This event has meant so much to me. I felt so liberated drawing characters that I liked and resonated with as black!! Not only that but this event allowed me to have fun with my art! I hadn't done that in such a long time and I am honestly so grateful for the creators putting Blacktober out there! You've helped me grow and love my skin color even more! Thank you!"



@SOBERPEN

"It's hard to imagine a better feeling than the overwhelming joy I had seeing myself and my people represented in the month of October. For me, Blacktober meant unity in our self expression in mediums that often overlooks us.

Blacktober gave us a voice to be heard and an image to be seen, not just amongst us, but for the whole world!"



@KIMMIE_BUNS

"Blacktober meant so much to me! It filled my heart with absolute joy when I saw so much black representation happening all over Twitter and there was so much talent!! It amazed me that this was an event in general and it made me feel like I was being seen. It inspired me to draw more Black ocs/Black fanart, to continue adding all the love and care for the Black community to get a chance to see another Black person in the art field!"



@REYREYPELCASTRE

"As a black Mexican creator I haven't heard about anything like this, and this was a chance to connect closer with my art and who I am"



@ZENOBUNNY

**"Its great seeing other black
artists posts and seeing
them have fun."**



@BECALMDOART

"When I was younger I didnt really see much black cartoon characters I relate to in main stream cartoons. But then I saw blacktober artworks and I was so happy! Like the vibes from this event has really filled my heart with joy to see all my favorite childhood characters look like me and other black folks. Also this event have given me a way to really articulate my art style and really practice different skintones, black hairstyles, and coloring and shading on beautiful black skin."



@RISOTHONERO

"It mean seeing myself in the media that I hold dear to my heart. Despite people throwing wrenches in the event I had a lot of fun and it helped me connect with more black creators. Not only did I feel seen, I gained followers, and found artists I didn't think I'd ever find myself. I haven't seen such an influx of black artists having such a good time before and it made me feel incredible. I didn't finish the month like I wanted but I'm definitely excited to participate next year!!"



@CREATES_PHOENIX

"There weren't a lot of characters that looked like me when I was younger, whether it was in toys, games, or shows I watched; the representation just wasn't there. So when I saw I could be a part of an event where my favorite characters looked like me or someone I knew, I was really happy! The whole event was such a joy to be a part of and I love the beautiful work that came out of it."



@TAJMERK

"Blacktober was an amazing turnout of Black beauty, Black creativity, and Black innovation in art. I cant begin to describe how inspired I am by the hard work Black artists put into this event while being harassed like they were. Blacktober was also such a great communal event, I feel more in touch with my friends and community than I ever have!"



@NATURALSEASONS1

"To me, Blacktober has helped me meet other Black artists I may not have met otherwise."



@SUPERNALREALM

"As a black artist, this event has let me feel more secure and comfortable in my color. I never drew dark people before, I was raised to see them, and myself, as not desirable or beautiful. But now I see how untrue that is! Black is beautiful."



@TASHYUWU

"Blacktober has given me friendships, laughter and an overall sense of community. I am so grateful for this event and so proud of everyone who stuck with it. This was definitely the highlight of 2020."



@FAINT_TOXIC

"I could only participate with my persona/oc, but blacktober helped me find other black artists like myself. Seeing so many characters from OCs to reimagines made me feel seen and heard. I truly loved having a space for us and only us. I hope we can continue this for next year because it's just a joy to see my fellow black artists flourish like this and have so much fun doing this."



@ASKBAKUMINA

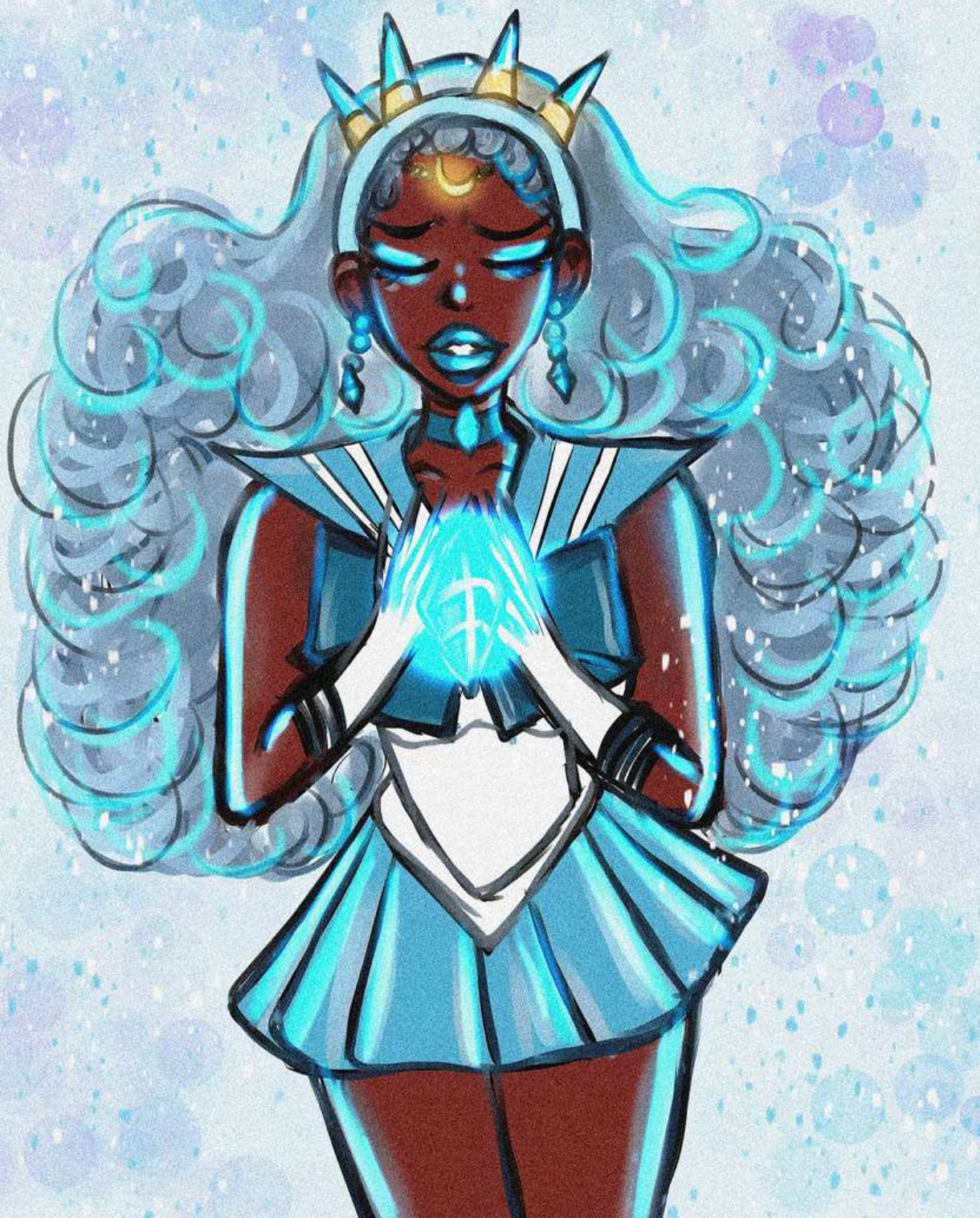
"I had a lot of fun seeing all the art and drawing my own art and as a black personality, it meant a lot to see characters that look like myself represented."



@TANI269

"It's interesting because when I saw blacktober, it made me think about how little of black characters I created. I always thought it wasn't a big or it just made more sense to put a white character in the forefront of my comics/illustrations since that's something people would relate to more. I saw this as an opportunity to finally get out of that mind, find the beauty in my skin and just create what I want, not what others expected of me. I was not able to do the full event due to time constraints but I am happy to have at least participated at least a little bit!~"

Tanisha



@DREANGELOART

"Blacktober is something I really enjoyed, growing up I used to draw myself as a Sailor Moon character and seeing so much talent during this challenge inspired me a lot! Can't wait for more challenges in the future."



@AFROSAMUCRY

"I loved blacktober!! This was my first time participating in an event like this and it was really nice to see my fave childhood characters being portrayed as black. There was a really nice sense of community and I made so many new black art mutuals so I'm really thankful. Additionally, I got to meet fellow black nerds,anime fans etc through their art!"



@TRANSANDBORED

"It honestly made me realize how many characters I love I actually think are/should be black. And it also gave me a burst of creativity I haven't felt in a while because there was something so euphoric about drawing characters I already and seeing them look like my family and blood. It was very good and I truly loved seeing black art on my tl everyday."



@RESPECTLAWPLZ

"Blacktober has been one of the most interesting Tober's I've been apart of. I've been lucky enough to not deal with any hate on my drawings due to the people I've been around. It's given me a lot of courage to make my favorite characters into Black people and the feedback I've gotten was killer! I hope we can get to be able to do this next year too! And if this is held again, hopefully folks don't get ignorant comments on their artwork again."



@DEFINICIIIOUS

"Blacktober was a breath of fresh air to see creative interpretations of characters I've grown up with and characters I was newly introduced to! It was truly fun to feel represented in a media I love interacting with, and it was fun to give back rep. with my own art!"



@SQUICKYART

"Blacktober has been the best event for Black artists to gain exposure, and experience that I have ever been in! Seeing everyone reinterpret characters was fun, but also gave me opportunities to see so many more ways of rendering Black hairstyles, coloring dark skin tones, and replicating Black features. These are all aspects of us that so often get left out of popular art, and getting the chance to see these features so lovingly and caringly displayed for an entire month is not only therapeutic for us, but will also help other Black artists as well as non-Black artists understand that we are beautiful, and we are just as easy to draw when you practice and genuinely try!"



@SACSILO

"I always had an affinity for creating black redesigns. Even before I started drawing, projecting blackness onto characters was very natural to me. Although I don't present as black as a mixed person, there was this feeling of warmth I got from seeing parts of my identity and culture within these characters. And looking at all these talented and wonderful artists finally in the spotlight after being overlooked and undervalued for so long, it gives hope this will open doors for more black talent."



@IZUNADROPEXE

"It's been a great opportunity for me as a black artist to put a spin on my favorite characters and make them look like me for a change."



@AQUIBONI

"This blacktober event has been a lot of fun! Very few of my favorite characters look like me and even fewer are main characters so it was cool to reimagine my favorite characters in a way that made me feel seen. A few I even drew to resemble me so I can reference for future cosplay!"



@CRAZYGEARZ

"Blacktober was such a fantastic event that I wish I had when I was little. I watched a lot of anime when I was little to cope with my moms' sudden passing. I pictured myself being in the anime I consumed and soon enough, I wasn't content with just imagining myself in these settings, I wanted to see actual black people in the worlds I came to love so much.

However, seeing caricature after caricature and being told by my non-black peers at school how it's unrealistic for black people to be in anime, I genuinely thought there was no place for us in Japanese animation. That all changed when I watched Naruto and Bleach and saw actual black characters that not only weren't Tezuka inspired caricatures but were CLEAN! That's when I started to think 'Maybe we do have a place in this medium after all.' But that thought grew even more when I saw fan-art of Naruto Uzumaki with black features and a black cosplayer as Android 17 from Dragon Ball. Being a black kid seeing that for the first time after many years of watching anime, that feelings of happiness is something that I can't put into words.

When I Cosplay non-black characters and see beautiful re-imaginings of characters with black features in the Blacktober tag, I think of all the young black kids that will be filled with that indescribable feeling of happiness seeing themselves in our art and view themselves as we always were: Beautiful in everything and anything we do."



@IMONLY5FEET

"Blacktober really helped me grow in my ability as an artist and affected my growth on my social media. It really helped me shine and for that I'm grateful. Can't wait to join again <3"



@D.VA_FOXXY

**"Blacktober has
meant a lot to me,
it's really refreshing
having a event just
for us."**



@SODAGHOST_

"I met and followed a ton of different black artists with blacktober, I also got more interaction with my art than I normally do, it was a lot of fun! Also the prompts for each day were really nice, they were so varied and unique! So now when I go on my timeline, there's a little more color. So overall, I liked this event G :3"



GG ✨

@GOLDGAUNTLET2

"Blacktober has encouraged me more to express my creativity in the art community, which commonly seems like a hostile space for black artists. It's been fun to watch other artists envision their favorite characters to look like them and even post their own original content. Even though I didn't get to finish my artwork before October ended, I think it says enough that this event got me back in the mood to draw again in the first place!"



@NOOTCHI3

"Blacktober to me, has meant seeing my favorite characters look more like me. It gave us more diversity. I constantly looked back and said to myself, if they would have looked like this back when I was a child, I would have been thrilled. Unfortunately, I had only time to participate with one piece of art. But blacktober has also given me the opportunity to continue to connect with other black artists in the community, and strengthen bonds with other black artists that I'd met both before and after the event. All around I would love to participate again next year."



@KEKE_SHAWN

"Blacktober was a magical event despite all the "backlash". I discovered so many new characters/black artists that I probably wouldn't have found without this event. I was in a small rut before the event happened and now I'm rediscovering my love for drawing again!"



@ILEYDOESTHINGS

"#Blacktober was an amazing experience. The joy felt to be able to imagine ourselves in spaces where we were previously absent or under represented and see the potential and possibilities when Black creatives are allowed to do just that...create."



@SALADINDIGO

"I was able to witness people give life to both new characters (OCs) and interpretations of characters that made me feel whole as a Black person. I for once felt completely loved and represented for who I am. :)"



@TBNEKAYBAW

"Blacktober felt to me was being able to open my shell and interact with amazing black artist. I always felt like I couldn't join the art community because I didn't have a lot of following and didn't think my art was good enough but blacktober allow me to interact with artist I admire and put more confidence into my artwork."



@SHAMARTTM

**"I was able to express my love for my blackness in a way that I
couldn't do before and that was something that I realize I
seriously need to do more of!"**



@TEACAKECUTIE

"Blacktober has given me a chance not only to showcase my own creativity, but also see everyone's wonderful redesigns and reimagining of beloved characters. All of this served to truly prove how beautiful Black people and make me feel more pride in being Black."



@MILDOREOS

"Blacktober is an event where I truly felt accepted and seen in as a black and afrolatine mixed artist. I've never been more motivated, proud, or even confident in my skills before but, this event has truly made me more confident in drawing again and even pushes me far enough to even begin working on my webcomic. Before I felt as though if I made black or mixed black OCs or characters that no one would be even interested at all and it's mind boggling at how wrong that was. I feel as though every piece I have made for Blacktober has been supported despite everything and if anything at all, has lightened my spirits up to continue to do what I love."

ghting love science legend! Powerpuffgi



@XBABABU

"What I loved about Blacktober is that it introduced me to so many other wonderful Black artists!! It's been fun to see these artists' Black interpretations of characters + this event is especially important considering how much crap Black people have had to deal with this past year. I hope we can make this a tradition for years to come!"



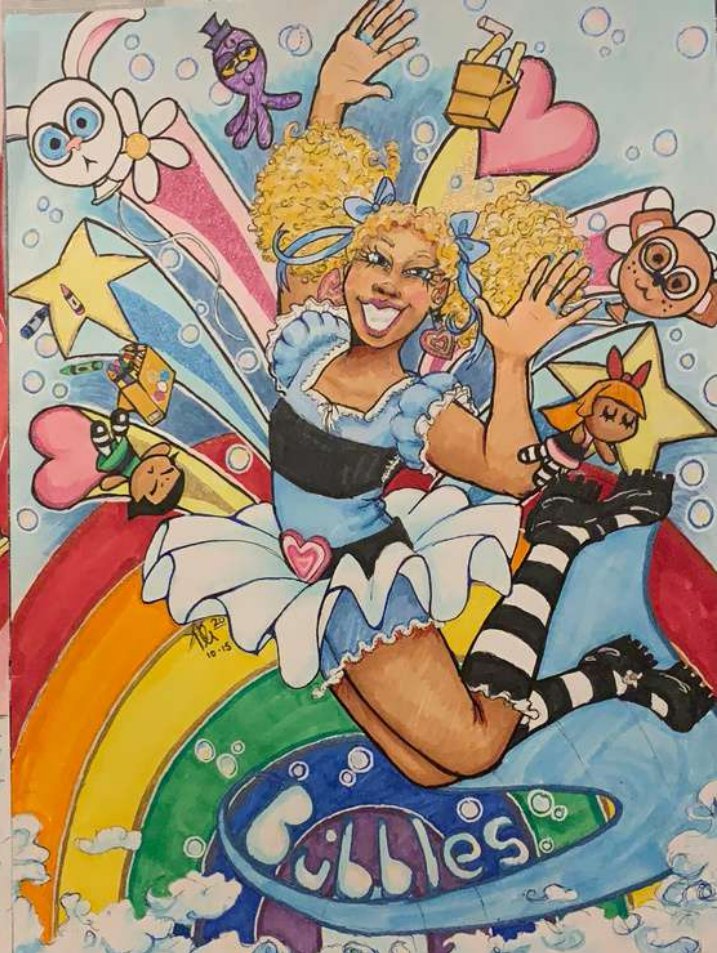
@MOTHOI

"Blacktober has been something truly inspiring to me because it's been forever since I've saw this many black creators showing off our beautiful creativity. Before I found this event or even looked into it I noticed there were barely any POCs in my general art bubble or community, so I'm truly starting to feel at home and feel more comfortable putting myself out there."



@CALLMESTIFLER

"I loved being able to recreate some of my favorite characters as Black and in my own style. I've also loved the discovery of new artists. 10/10"



@MUNITALPRATZ

"This event has brought me so much excitement to see the creativity our community is able to come up with! To also see so much of my own interests being indulged in to the point where they also look like me is extremely heartwarming. I was also able to find a amazing amount of more black creatives to follow!"



@AYVIEBEE

"This event was really inspiring to me. Never before had I seen quite so many positive representations of black people in a space! There's something exceptionally empowering about seeing your own skin and features be shown so proudly by other black people. It was amazingly eye opening in many ways."



@NJERIBENNETT

"This was my first time participating in #Blacktober and I am so glad because it helped push me as an artist. I think it takes courage to post any form of art on social media because you can control the response. So being able to step out and share my art was fulfilling for sure. Lastly, having such an exclusive place just for Black folx to express themselves was appreciated. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to take up space."



@ITSAIDANANDEVE

"#Blacktober is one of the best thing which ever happened to me. That's the event where I could show that black characters were beautiful and could look very different from each other but especially the one where I fell in love with my skin."



@DIANSAKHUART

"I wasn't so sure about participating at first because I barely drew fanart to begin with. But, I started out with Nausicaa before October, and it was so cute and refreshing, and I felt how meaningful it would have to me as a kid, to have seen Nausicaa as I designed her in that movie. It was the sweetest feeling! So this event has really given me more confidence to make characters that really look like me!"



@WITCHXES

"This year has been tough for me both physically and creatively. And yet now I am more motivated than ever! I've never had an opportunity to surround myself with so many talented artists that look like me. I've learned so much during this event and I'll never forget that. Most importantly, I have finally found my community and that's the most precious gift."



@JVZMINA

"#Blacktober has not only been a way for me to represent Black people in their favorite anime, but a way to encourage Black creators to cosplay and draw whoever they choose! Representation is so important in media, and challenges like this shine the light on all the talent out there, while opening the door for further representation in the future."



@JASSMINE_TEAA

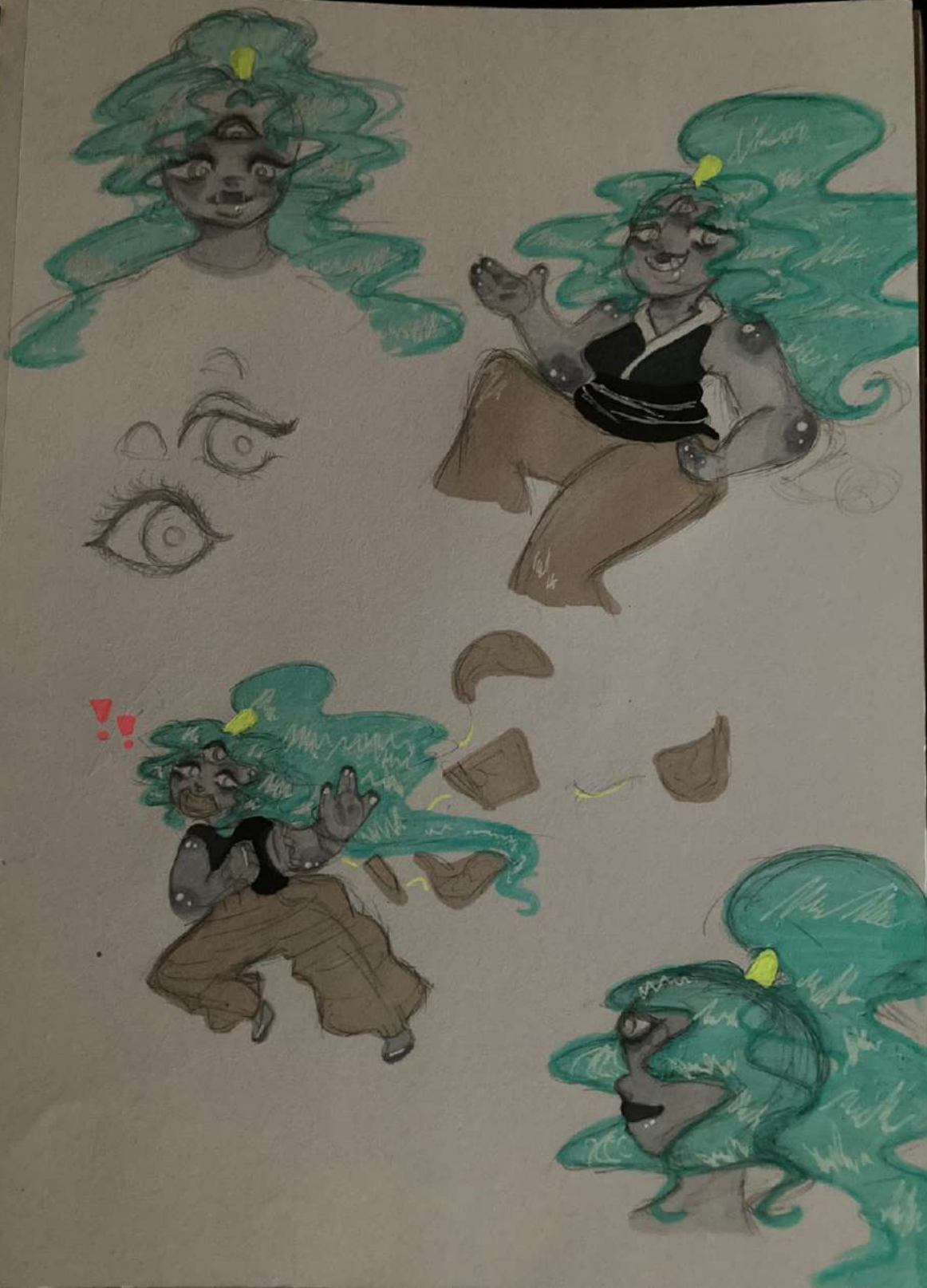
"Blacktober is a month of representation, drawing, and fun! I like drawing people with my skin color and people around my skin tone. It makes me feel safe and happy to be who I am"

You are a noisy man.



@ARTBYMEWITHLOVE

"To me, Blacktober has been a safe space for black artists to create a world that should be through the expression of our favorite characters as well as OC content as black people. It's been beautiful seeing and creating the representation that should be, and I'm loving this movement that's is greatly contributing to the highlighting of black artists and characters that will paint a better tomorrow for us all ♥."



@MELLO_SPICY

"I honestly loved being a part of the event! I didn't get to draw as much art for it as I wanted, but I still loved being a part of this event. I adored seeing other black artists come together and share their talents, passion, and artistry all month long. I got to see a lot of art and follow some of my now favorite black artists. I really loved how we could all come together as a community and show that we are black artists and that we embrace our beautiful culture and skin without others bringing us down. We're so united and together. That what I like most about #Blacktober."



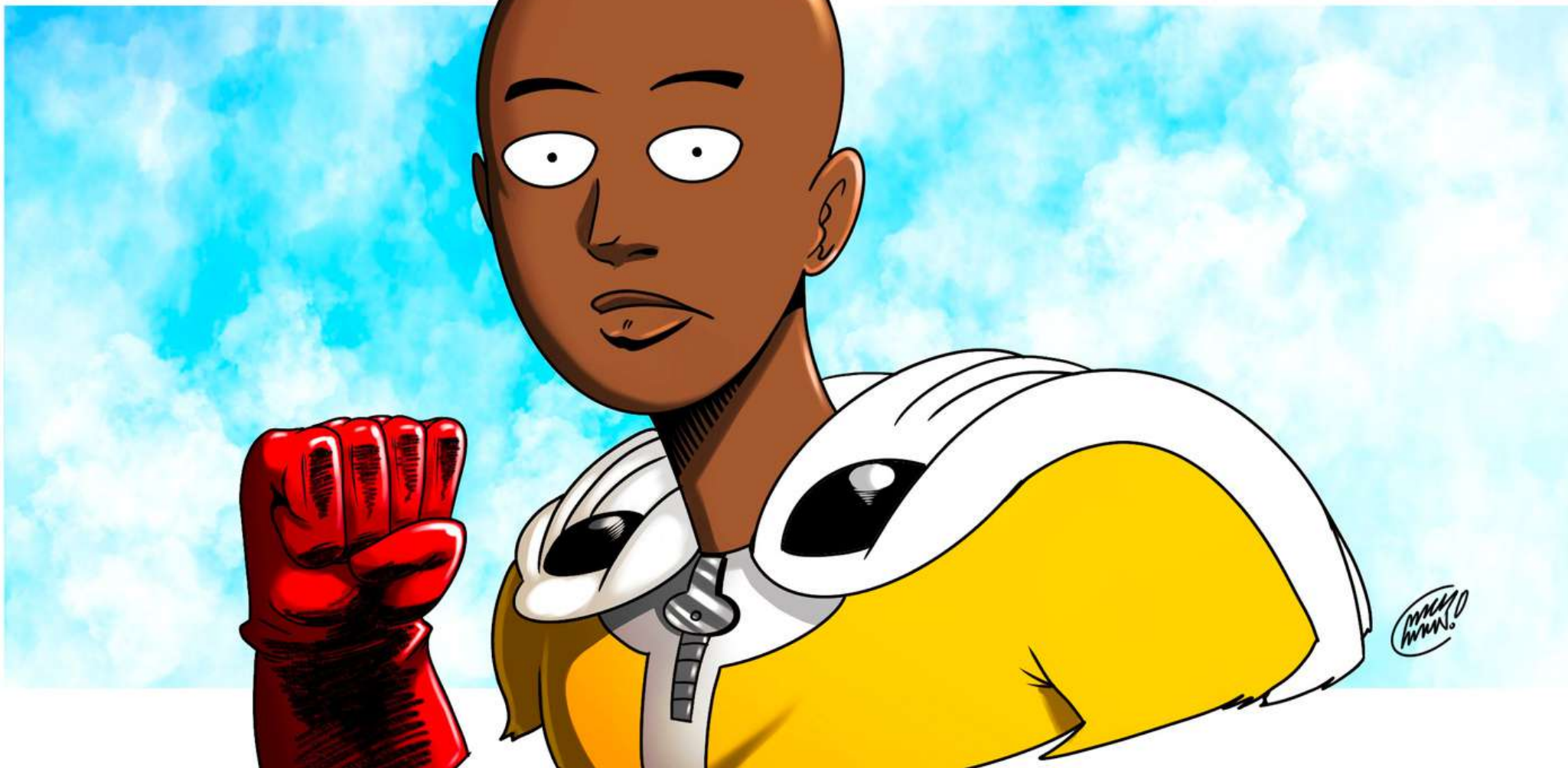
@HONEYBONNIES

"Despite the hate and ugliness artists received over the month, it made me so immensely happy to see black artists reimagine themselves in our favorite characters. It's a good, light feeling to see a character you adore with your features."



@NODOWDY

"Blacktober to me is simply giving black creators the power to envision the media we grew up on through our own lens, also to piss off the yts because it's fun to me"



@MACKATTACKART

"Blacktober has been really engaging experience for me that help me explore opportunity to draw black people in different style/aesthetic."



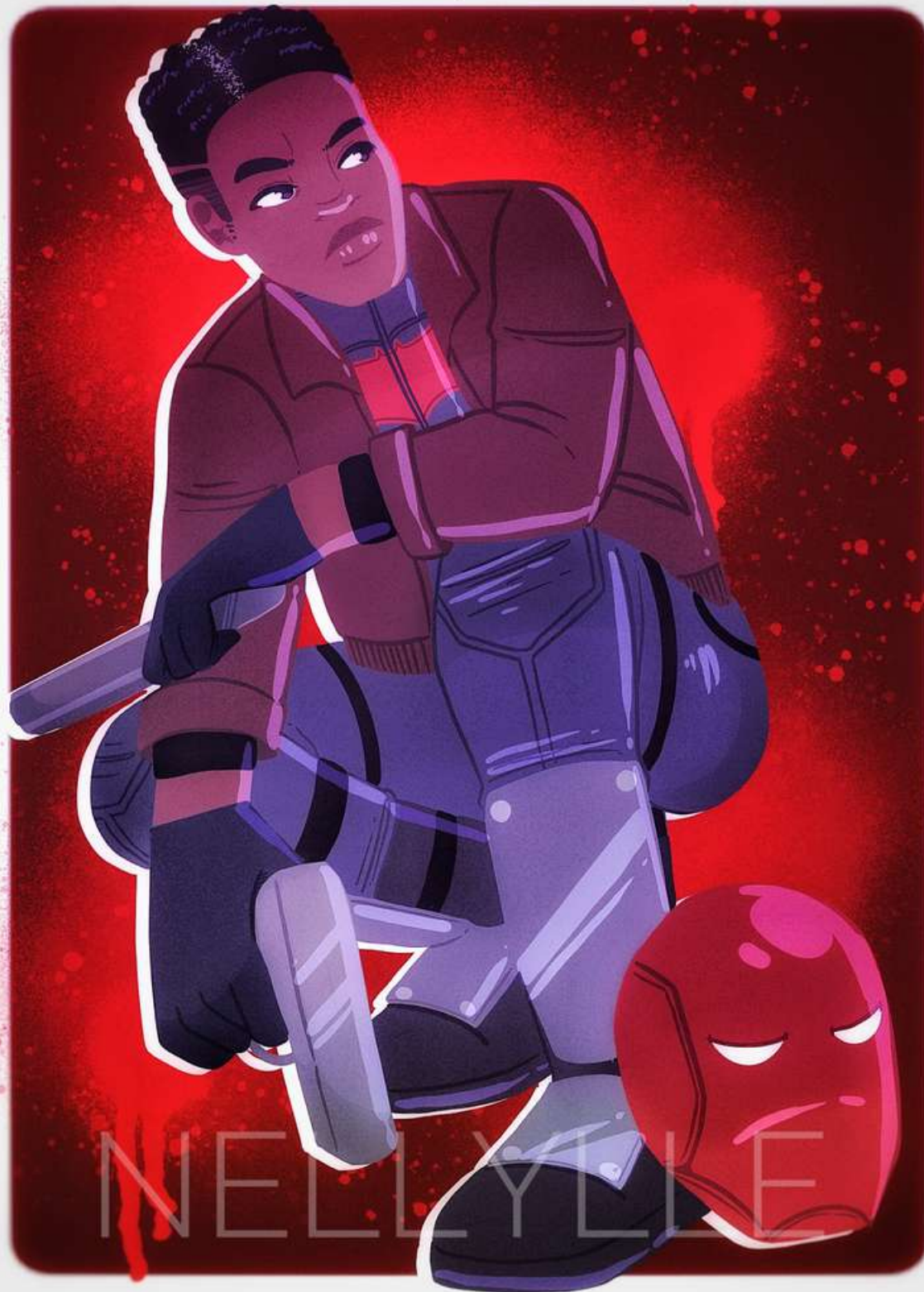
@KUUDERE_BABY

**"It's a great
opportunity to have
fun with other black
creatives! I've found
some wonderful
artists this so far and
I can't wait to find
more!"**



@THEYANKEEARTIST

"Blacktober was a wonderful gateway to discovering many new artists and providing support for one another. Tho I wasn't able to participate more in the event, my friends and I all still had a good time doing it and seeing each other's thought process with each piece. I'm very happy that even tho I participated in one day, I can easily say that my new list of favorite artists look more like me than they did before this event and I thank y'all for that. I'll definitely be getting into it more next year."



@NELLY__LLE

"Blacktober meant to me that I get to see myself in media that I enjoyed. I didn't really joined in on it much but it was so awesome to see black creators view on their favorite characters. It did sucked that some racist people gotta ruin the fun of it but what I like about us is that we don't take no mess and we keep going! We want something fun to do for ourselves as a people and we're gonna get it."



@MYNABEAR

"Blacktober was a very eye opening experience, from discovering many amazing artist, to seeing where loyalties lie in the art community as a whole. Overall, I loved seeing the different take on characters designs, and even seeing some artist own original characters."



@NEILLCONNERSART

"#Blacktober meant diversity to me! It was an event that I felt truly comfortable joining. It was amazing to see so many colored characters and the type of creations people came up with. It was nothing but inspiring and relieving! Black artists always go beyond expectations!"



@SHIRUBANI

"This event really means to me ! Often black characters are as awful persons in media. It hurts so bad, but the blacktober showed me how beautiful we are and I should be proud of my origins ! All the blacktober's redesigns are cool !! Thank you all !!"



@SOUPYDRAWS

"I don't think I've ever participated in an art event before. Blacktober was really fun for me and means a lot in creating representation. I also don't usually draw everyday so this was a cool challenge. I hope everyone enjoyed it as I did!"



@KWARATEEN

"I've loved animation & creating fanart for as long as I can remember. I've always limited myself from drawing characters that looked like me because i haven't seen that many examples as to how simplify things like black hair in mainstream animations.

Blacktober gave me the permission to merge my love for certain characters with characters that looked like me and it was just such a cathartic experience! I learned so much & I've also discovered amazing black artists!"



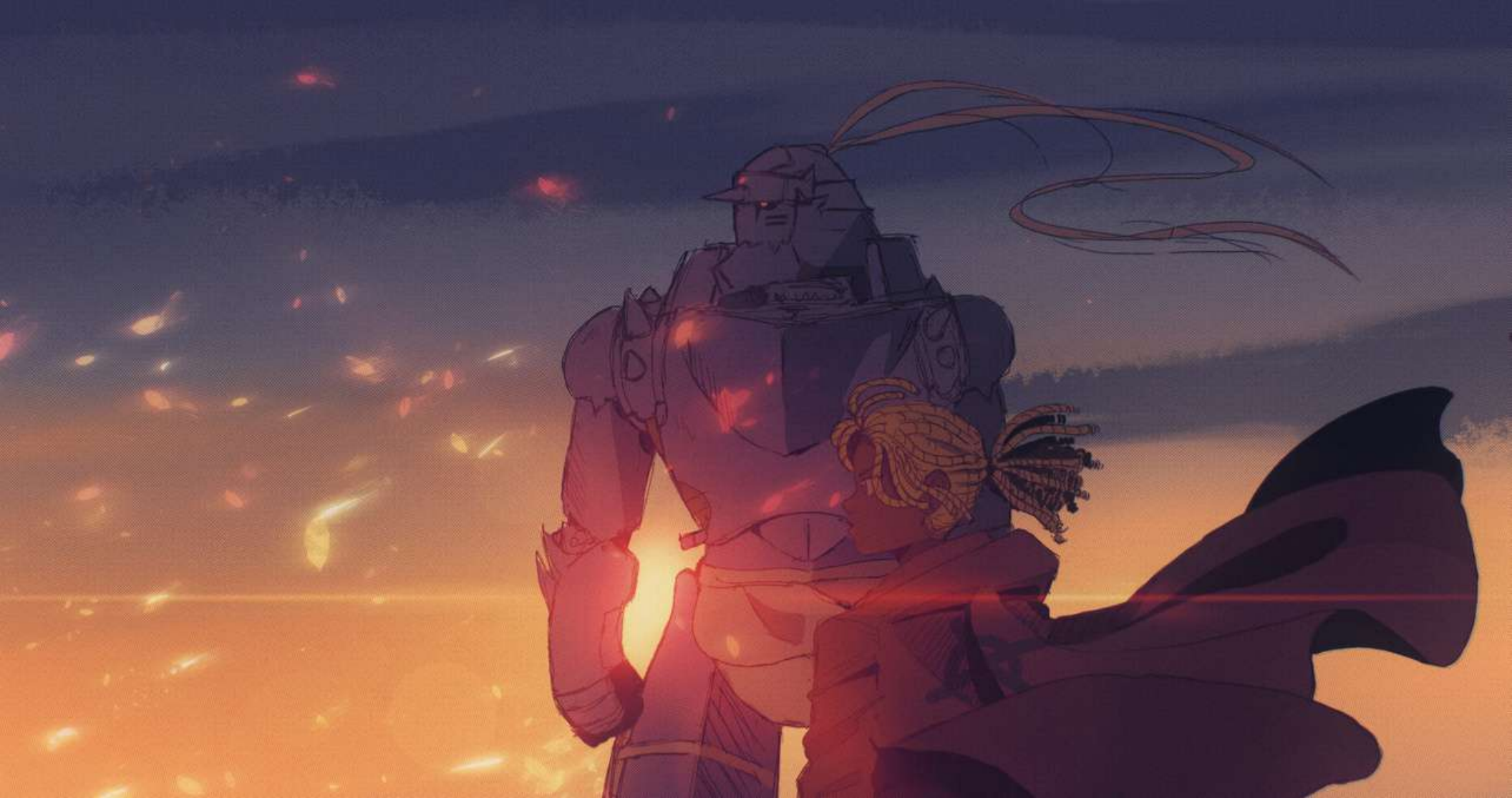
@PLUMDELTA

"#Blacktober is a wonderful opportunity for black creators to make art that represents them and makes them happy. Whether that be creating original works and spreading their ideas around or making fanart of their favorite character reimagined as their own race. It's also been a great opportunity to promote one another and gain connections with other black artists to make our community of black creators bigger and get people to notice us more. It's just all around good fun with talented people."



@IGNITEDQUILS

"Despite me participating in one day, Blacktober is something that was needed for us blacks to express ourselves in a positive light. I hope we can continue this kind of thing after Blacktober since we need more acceptance."



@THEPOTENPRO

"It makes you realize how much untapped potential there is for black people to be represented more in media especially in western animation and anime. How much unique designs we're able to have amongst our selves. It very much drives me to make sure that in the industry I always have black characters in the forefront of my stories."



@FELINEARTSY

"Although I haven't posted very much during #Blacktober due to irl work and exhaustion, I still had so much fun and this event sparked ideas and the motivation for me to draw! And with every sketch, every piece, and every line drawn, I hadn't felt this happy to draw in such a long while!"



@JORDANBANKSARTS

"Blacktober has given me so much freedom, and just support from my peers both black and non black. It was so much fun exploring on what characters would look like and I can't wait for next year's Blacktober!"



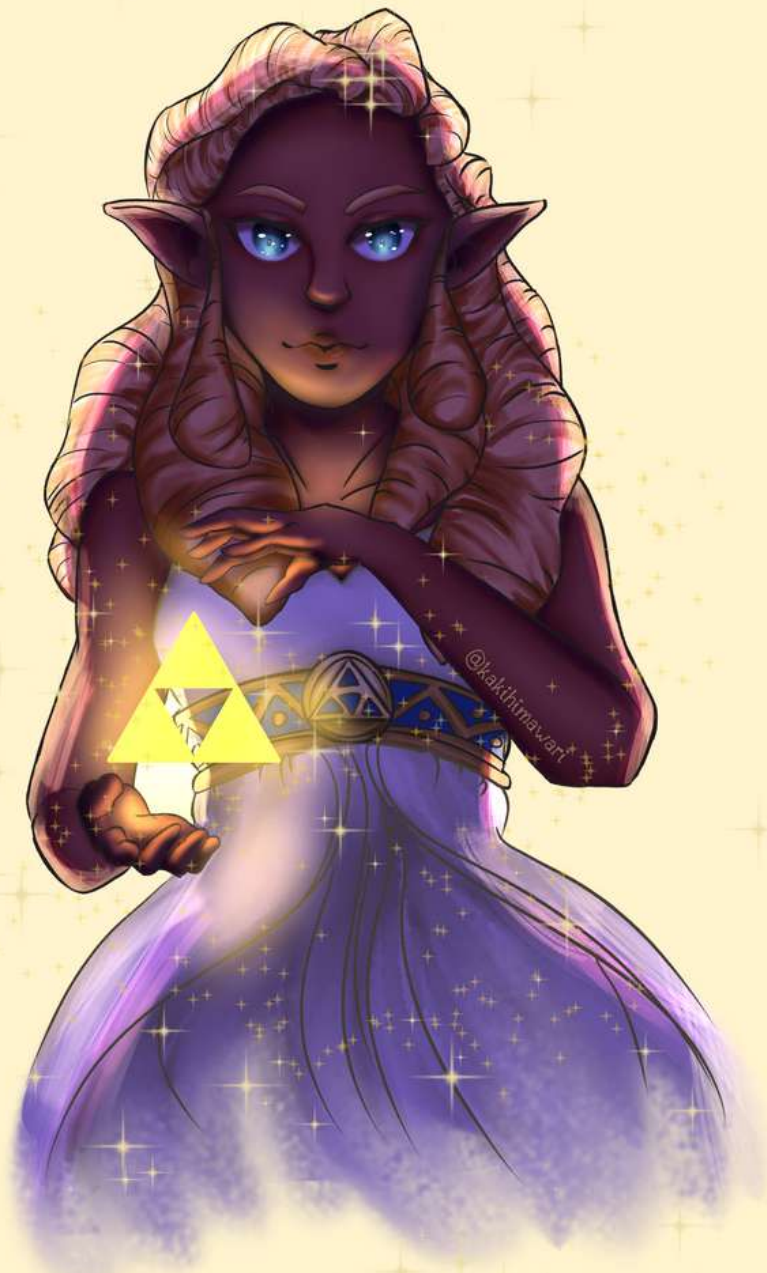
@ROSETHEMOONDRAGON

"I thought Blacktober was an amazing opportunity to spotlight black artists. And as someone who grew up watching a lot of cartoons it was so characters I loved who looked like me! I believe the Black Card Members did a great job in facilitating the event and showcasing all the work these artists have done. I'm excited to participate more next year!"



@ASHLEYHUSK3

"I'd say it was fun! Tiring because of all the racism but fun because I liked seeing them get mad at the fact that we as a black community could come together and we all created so many amazing creative things. I'm really proud to be a black and have such an amazing community"



@KAKIHIMAWARI

"Blacktober was liberating while also a little draining. Draining in the sense that I'm not one to make a new drawing for everyday of a month, but that's minor. Drawing as a kid, I believed everything needed to be drawn as it should be and that there was no room for deliberation. Coupled with the fact that I never liked to look at/draw myself + the lack of poc rep in the media that I consumed, I grew up having fave characters that look nothing like me, so I always drew characters that looked nothing like me as well believing there's no way the characters that I loved could look like me. Watching other black artists make their favorite characters look like them has made me realize the belief I held as a kid was not true + blacktober was the push I needed to try it for myself!"



@KODODREWTHIS

"Despite all the twisted and racist individuals, this was truly such a fun and wonderful event to be apart of along with so many other talented artists; seeing all their great renditions of characters we all know and love immersed with our hair, skin and culture! It was a beautiful thing to witness and I can't wait to watch this grow over the years!!"



@FEMI95596661

"Participating and supporting Blacktober for the entire month was to me, a time where I could finally release all the tears, excitement and joy that I felt as a little kid seeing for the first time a black girl on an animated TV show, that wasn't an extremely racist caricature or the sassy BFF of the main character. Scrolling through the hashtag on twitter with soo many headcanons of each of my favorite characters to look like me was the most heartwarming experience I've felt in a while, it was reminiscence to a younger version of myself seaching up black anime characters on google, and immediately scurrying to watch each and every one of them, crying and screaming each time they came up on the screen. Participating in it also left me with a huge about of pride and responsibility, I received DMs and comment from kids just younger than I am on my Blacktober art that say they felt so much more confident in their skin because of my Blacktober art. It also changed my mindset completely, now I am striving to have my place in the animation and artwork system, I'm still young, but I do hope this opens up opportunities for me in the future, so I can make a whole lot more black kids happy and excited just like I was once."



@IMBOREDASFUK

"Blacktober gave black artists' the opportunity to illustrate characters that they idolize in a more representative form. It is no secret that there is a shortage of African American anime characters so it was only fitting that i create a piece from one of my favorite anime's growing up. This piece was inspired by my favorite sailor scout, Usagi Tsukino, and her love interest, Tuxedo Mask, from Sailor Moon."



@KURAIMICHII

"This piece was for the day 7 prompt "badass". It's a drawing of Maka Albarn from the hit anime Soul Eater. My original thought was to just keep her the same and maybe change her hairstyle a bit, but I felt as though adding more unique features would really make this my own! The best part of this has to be the giant puffball pigtails, I always love coming up with new and outrageous hairstyles for my characters. I wanted to be able to create something that I would have loved to see growing up as a kid and feel represented. I loved experimenting with different colors and lighting since it's not my usual comfort zone."





@SLEEPYmia145

"When I thought of what I wanted to draw for Blacktober, May immediately came to mind. I've been engrossed and obsessed with Pokemon since I was a very small child, and watching "Pokemon Advance" every Saturday at 10pm was one of my greatest pleasures to look forward to! As a kid, I used to use MS Paint to make characters darker skinned, or make my own Black characters. It would be many, many years later before I finally saw a character on Pokemon that actually looked like me. By then, I can't say I was as into the anime.

If anything at all, I just hope someone gets a small bit of inspiration or comfort by seeing my version of May. I know my past self would love it. I'm glad I got to draw this, if at least for her"



@THEYONNDON

**"Giving black people a
creative & refreshing view of
themselves that is otherwise
not widely represented in the
media."**



@NINJAUBREY

"It's black excellence. It has been so cool seeing different interpretations of canon characters and fan works of canon black characters as well as so many just absolutely awesome OCs. It's been a blast to participate in and seeing others also having a great time is such a comfort. Despite some of the reactions, there is a sort of peace to knowing that others feel the same and want to see that representation and just how diverse a black character can be. Especially when it comes from black creatives. We are as diverse as our art and having a month to showcase that is really a blessing."



@MELISSAMCINDOE

**"It was a nice alternative to
inktober, and there wasn't as
much pressure on it. It was
fun and a good way to see
what other black artists are
doing!"**



@CRAFTSBYTHULANI

"I as a mixed race creator have never been pushed to really draw black characters or seeing black characters in Media, and being able to see them in full color and Thriving has been amazing to experience. I most likely will only be drawing bipoc from now on."



@BOTS143

"Being black in pop culture spaces is a scarcely rewarding challenge. From bad / barely any representation to just general racism from the community. It's been so normalized to a point that I didn't even realize how much I needed an event like blacktober. I felt seen, I felt heard. Seeing all those characters I relate to from NGE to Shera, with my brown skin and features , just made me finally feel appreciated, and drawing for an event was actually fun for the first time! Blacktober was the best part of 2020 for me."



**COOL
ma**



@THEACTUALCEL

"#Blacktober is...one of the best events I've ever helped organize in my life. I am forever grateful to have been a co-creator to such an amazing community and bringing together so many great artists. I'm proud of everyone who participated and I'm delighted to see all the inspiring art this tag has brought. Despite the negativity everyone kept going without a care in the world. We kept creating to our heart's content! That's beautiful to me and I'm sure all the people who participated agree with this. Thank you all for being apart of something so special!"

@THEACTUALCEL



THANK YOU!

SEE YOU IN 2021!

@PIANTA_



